

Storms cause \$14 million damage to Palestinian agriculture

JERICHO (AFP) — Floods after massive rains last week caused damage to the Palestinian agricultural sector valued at more than \$14 million, the agriculture minister said, quoted by the press on Friday. Most of the damage came in Jericho in the West Bank and the areas of Khan Younis, Rafah and Deir Balah in the southern Gaza Strip, said Abdul Jawad Saleh. He said the damage totalled \$14.5 million. The storms, which killed six people in Israel, also destroyed over 50 homes in Palestinian refugee camps around Jericho.

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U.N. resolution against Iraq turns into threat of sanctions

Iraq hails five abstaining Security Council members

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.S. and Britain convinced the Security Council to agree to threaten Iraq with new sanctions unless it discloses information on banned weapons programmes. But it was Iraq which felt like a winner. Although nine of the 15 council members voted for the resolution Thursday, five abstained: Russia, France, China, Egypt and Kenya. U.S. and British diplomats had been saying for days that they considered maintaining Security Council unity paramount. Otherwise, they feared Iraq would be emboldened to step up defiance of the international community.

In the end, the Americans and British ended up with neither unity nor the new sanctions in the form they had originally wanted. The resolution expresses the "firm intention" of the Security Council to ban Iraqi military and intelligence officials from travelling abroad unless Baghdad cooperates fully with U.N. weapons inspectors. In the meantime, the Security Council will draw up a list of those Iraqis by name who would be affected by the ban.

Iraqis suffering from malnutrition — U.N.

DUBAI (AFP) — Many Iraqis are still suffering from malnutrition despite the easing of sanctions imposed on the country over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a U.N. official said Thursday. Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. humanitarian mission in Baghdad, said the easing of the sanctions in December under U.N. resolution 986 — dubbed the oil-for-food accord — had not eradicated hunger. "Resolution 986 has certainly stopped a further deterioration of the nutritional level of the population, but it is not sufficient to cure those who have been suffering from malnutrition for a long time — especially children under the age of five," Mr. Falt told Agence France Presse.

only two permanent members to impose their own sick motives and norms on the Security Council," Mr. Sahhaf said. "Those norms are against international law." The U.S. and Britain had

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U.S. freezes \$75m in aid to Israel over commitment to Jordan — Israeli press

By Mahmoud Masharqah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan, which early this year received \$100 million from the U.S. under the Middle East Peace Fund, has nothing to do with the current dispute between Israel and the U.S., officials said. According to press reports, the U.S. Congress has frozen \$75 million in aid to Israel because Tel Aviv failed to confirm its willingness to transfer part of U.S. funds it receives to the fund. Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf told the Jordan Times, Friday, that Jordan already received \$50 million from the fund that was set up by U.S. President Bill Clinton in June during a visit to Washington by HRH Crown Prince Hassan. The minister said the other \$50 million will be disbursed soon and used for Jordanian development projects.

Israel agreed in June to a U.S. request to transfer \$50 million of the \$3 billion it receives in U.S. aid each year to the fund as a gesture of support to peace efforts by Jordan. Egypt also agreed to give up \$50 million of its substantial U.S. aid for the same purpose. Israel was to confirm in writing to Washington its willingness to transfer the money to the fund, but the letter was never received, prompting the Congress this week to freeze the scheduled release of \$75 million to Israel, Yediot Aharonot reported. The \$75 million was to be an advance on part of the \$3 billion promised to Israel under its fiscal 1998 foreign aid bill, which has been held up by baggling in Congress.

Israeli Foreign Ministry sources told Yediot Aharonot that the letter confirming the aid money transfer had simply been held up by the Jewish new year holiday season. A ministry spokesman told Agence France Presse that "contacts between Israel and the United States on this issue will be resumed next week," but he would not say if Israel had sent the required letter to Washington. The U.S. Congress already held up disbursement of the \$75 million earlier this month after Israeli authorities refused to extradite a Jewish American teenager wanted for allegedly killing another youth in Maryland. That dispute was resolved early this week when the Israeli attorney general ruled that the youth was not an Israeli citizen and could be extradited.

Palestinians launch major diplomatic offensive at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Palestine's observer mission to the U.N., fed up with a lack of progress in the peace process, has launched a major diplomatic offensive to upgrade its status and force a vote on the question of Israeli policy regarding Jewish settlements. The Palestinian observer to the U.N., Nasser Qidwa, said Friday that his delegation was seeking to convene an emergency meeting of the 185-nation General Assembly, in response to

Israel's refusal to halt settlement construction in occupied Arab territory in defiance of U.N. resolutions. They say they have the support of 188 states, who are parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of Palestinians. Such a conference was urged in a General Assembly resolution adopted in special session on July 15. The Palestinian observer

(Continued on page 7)

Rival Kurds resume heavy fighting in northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Heavy fighting resumed between rival Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq Thursday night, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said Friday, accusing its arch rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), of launching a huge offensive with the support of Turkish air raids. "The KDP offensive in several areas followed Turkish air strikes against our positions yesterday afternoon," the PUK's

Ankara representative Shazad Saib told Agence France Presse. "Heavy fighting is continuing in the east of Rawanduz [near the Iranian border] and near Koyan-jak [south of Rawanduz]," Mr. Saib said. "At this point we don't know who is winning and who is losing," he said. Western sources here confirmed that there was fighting. KDP officials

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Israeli army kills 3 guerrillas in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli forces killed three members of a guerrilla unit inside the Israeli self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon on Friday, an Israeli military spokesman said. An Israeli infantry unit encircled the Lebanese guer-

illas as they tried to infiltrate the buffer zone and killed three of them in close-range combat, he said. Earlier Friday, Lebanese police said Israeli artillery rained more than 40 shells on suspected guerrilla positions in south Lebanon, but were

unable to give any details of casualties. They said Israeli gunners opened fire after a unit of unidentified guerrillas was caught trying to creep into the central sector of the buffer strip from the Wadi Sluki Valley.



Algerian officials spill ballots onto a table as the counting process starts after polling stations closed in the Algerian municipal election in Algiers, Thursday (Reuters photo)

RND wins majority of seats in Algerian municipal vote

ALGIERS (AFP) — The pro-government National Democratic Rally (RND) party was Friday declared winner of Algeria's municipal elections taking more than half the seats for local and regional assemblies, although opposition parties were claiming widespread fraud. Of the 13,123 seats at stake, the RND won 7,242, Interior Minister Mostefa Benmansour said. For the regional assemblies, the RND won 986 of the 1,880 seats, he said. The National Liberation Front (FLN), for three decades the only legal party, took second place with 2,864 seats on the local councils

and 373 on the regional assemblies. The Islamist Movement of Society for Peace (MSP) won 890 seats on the local councils and 260 on the regional assemblies. Mr. Benmansour said the vote Thursday proceeded smoothly and no major incidents were reported. The elections, billed by authorities as a major step toward building democracy, were, however, overshadowed by recent brutal massacres mainly carried out in villages near Algiers and blamed on Islamists. They were also marred by voter apathy and allegations by opposition parties of widespread fraud despite

government insistence that the elections had gone off normally. According to official figures, turnout among the 16 million eligible voters was 66.16 per cent, with nearly 10.5 million people taking part in the vote, a similar number as in legislative elections held in June. The lowest turnout was in the capital Algiers where only 45.6 per cent of voters cast ballots. Algerians in the proportional-style elections had to choose 15,000 local and regional officials from among more than 85,000

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Primakov arrives in Beirut on first leg of 'difficult' Middle East tour

BEIRUT (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov arrived in Beirut on Friday on the first leg of a Middle East tour aimed at reviving the ailing Arab-Israeli peace process. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz is due to meet Mr. Primakov and will inform him of "Lebanese concern over the continuing attitude of Israel which risks causing the collapse of the peace process," an official said. Mr. Primakov, who last visited the region a year ago, is also due to meet Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliamentary Speaker Nabih

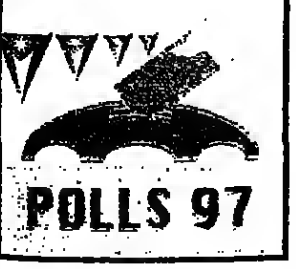
Berri on Friday. His tour, which includes stops in Syria, Israel, Ramallah on the West Bank, Jordan and Egypt before wrapping up Oct. 31, comes at an "extremely difficult" time in the region, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Moscow on Thursday. "We realise it is a very difficult mission, and we are far from thinking we have some major recipe for a Middle East settlement," spokesman Gennady Tarasov told Agence France Presse. "The situation in the Middle East is extremely difficult... but we need to find a way out of the dead-end,"

spokesman Tarasov said. During his talks in Beirut and Damascus, Mr. Primakov, a Middle East expert by training, will aim to create conditions for breaking the stalemate in talks with Israel and for removing tension in south Lebanon, Mr. Tarasov told reporters. "Experience shows that progress on one track, while another one has stagnated, doesn't do any good. There has to be some correlation between all these talks," Mr. Tarasov said. Peace talks between Syria and Israel have been on ice since February 1996.

(Continued on page 7)

Government says voters to show proof of identity amidst charges of fraud

Public invited to 'go and check for themselves' regularity of polls



By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

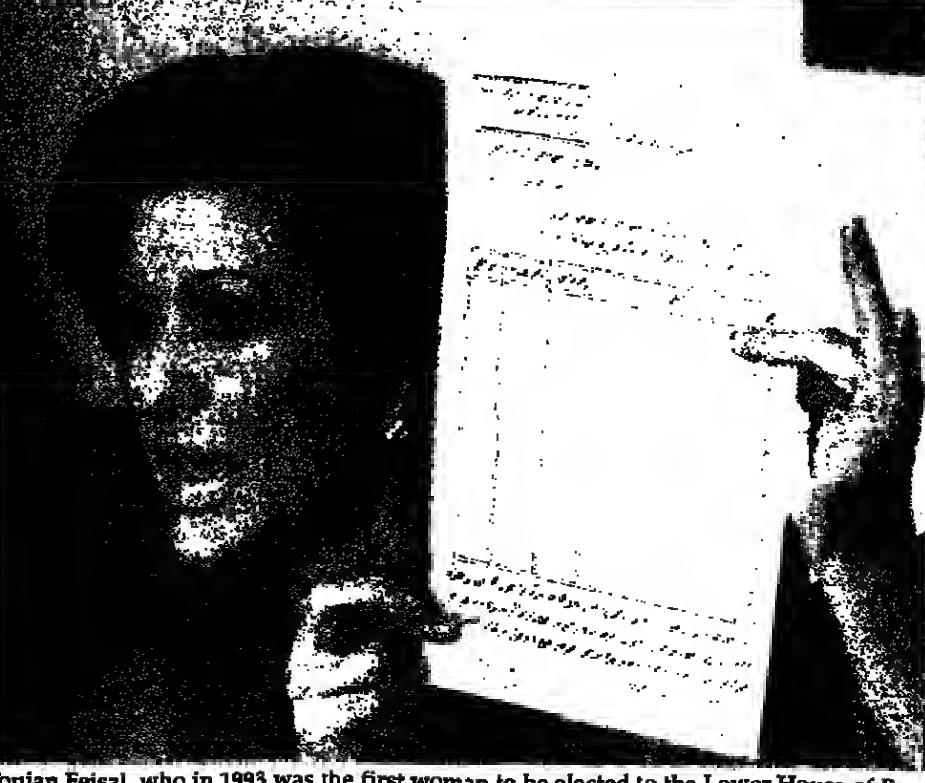
AMMAN — In a bid to dismiss increasing charges of election fraud, the government Friday announced that voters will have to produce in addition to the voter card official proof of identity such as the identity card, passport, family book or the driving licence before casting their ballots in the Nov. 4 elections. The recent measure, announced in a Ministry of Interior statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, is aimed at preventing the same person from casting more than one vote, or members

of the armed and security forces, who are barred from voting according to the Elections Law, from going to the polls. Inviting the public to "go and check for themselves" the regularity and legality of the polls, the statement added that "in a bid to clarify the truth, the ministry announces that repeated names have been deleted and all those who try to use their voting card more than once will be punished according to the law." Last week, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid announced that around 80,000 repeated names were deleted from the final list of registered voters, which went down from 1,908,271 to 1,890,030. He also said the ministry was seeking the help of a computer

expert to detect and correct further irregularities in the voting lists. Opposition candidates, however, considered the recent measures as inadequate and accused the government of trying to give the appearance of fairness, while in reality sanctioning more violations. "The government is trying to pretend that it is doing something [to ensure fair and free elections], but they will just delete a few thousands of [repeated] names, the ones that they themselves [had previously] created, just to cover up for massive forgery," outspoken candidate and former Deputy Tounjan Feisal told the Jordan Times Friday. Ms. Feisal, Jordan's only woman deputy, said the ministry's decision to ask voters to produce identifi-

cation documents before casting their votes was "useless" in avoiding that the same person votes more than once. "The family book should be the only accepted document [at the ballot stations] and it should be stamped [after the voting]," she insisted. Ms. Feisal told an international press conference at her home on Thursday that she was going to present to the court concrete evidence of forged voting cards, fake power of attorney documents, and other cases of corruption. She told reporters she had evidence of some names repeated up to 40 times and at least 9,000 soldiers included in the registered voter lists in Amman 3rd and 5th Districts, where she and her

sister Leila Feisal are running, respectively. She said they also found dead people's names among the registered voters. Producing a photocopy of a card allegedly issued to a dead man, she said that "this is the second time he is issued a card. He was also issued one in 1993, and he had been dead then." Ms. Feisal called for the postponement of elections and the immediate dismissal of the current government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. She said the widespread fraud and irregularities in voting lists and pre-election procedures "mean one of two things: Either the government is totally incompetent or totally corrupt. In both cases, it should be sacked immediately."



Tounjan Feisal, who in 1993 was the first woman to be elected to the Lower House of Parliament holds up a copy of a document she said shows fraud in voters' registration for the upcoming elections next month (Reuters photo)

Netanyahu aide says Arafat refusing to recognise Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A senior Israeli official accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Friday of trying to torpedo U.S. efforts to rescue the peace process to avoid having to admit "true recognition" of Israel's right to exist.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that the Palestinian (National) Authority doesn't want a final status agreement with Israel," said Danny Naveh, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The final status agreement would mean a true Palestinian recognition of the state of Israel. It just may be that the Palestinian National Authority is not ready for this and their whole desire is to receive more territories from Israel without reaching a final recognition of Israel," he told Israeli radio.

Mr. Naveh accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of purposely poisoning the atmosphere around the

U.S. mediation effort which aims to get Israelis and Palestinians into accelerated negotiations on a "final status" peace agreement for the occupied territories.

Such negotiations would have to tackle the toughest issues of Palestinian demands for an independent state, the fate of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and the future of Jerusalem.

Israeli and Palestinian officials have been in an escalating war of words over the outcome of U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross' latest mission, which ended on Tuesday.

Israeli officials said Mr. Ross' visit achieved appreciable progress in a series of negotiations aimed at implementing interim peace agreements which have been on hold since early this year.

They said advances had also been made on the general issue of cooperation in combating

terrorism by Palestinian.

Israel's top priority.

But PNA officials charged that Mr. Ross had failed to provide any breakthrough on the issues of key Palestinian concern, notably long-delayed Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and demands for a halt to Jewish settlement building.

"There has been no progress to resume the peace process," Mr. Arafat's aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh said.

A U.S. spokesman said "some gaps have been narrowed" on specific interim issues, such as the opening of a Palestinian airport in Gaza, but that major differences remained concerning troop withdrawals and settlements.

Mr. Netanyahu wants to skip over such interim issues and launch into accelerated final status negotiations.

The Palestinians have agreed in principle to fast-track final status talks but insist that Israel

at the same time honour its interim commitments, notably by withdrawing troops from most of the West Bank.

Senior officials from the two sides are due to meet in Washington next week for a new round of talks.

Mr. Naveh said Israel would carry out no further troop pull-backs in the foreseeable future because the PNA has yet to crack down on Islamists.

"It's hard to expect Israel will transfer more lands to the security jurisdiction of the Palestinian (National) Authority when they are not fighting terror," Mr. Naveh said.

He claimed that Mr. Arafat was "every day releasing prisoners" arrested in connection with anti-Israeli violence, but he provided no evidence.

Israel also reacted angrily to statements by Hamas leaders this week in Gaza calling for pursuit of the "holy war" and suicide attacks against Israel.



PALESTINIAN TENT PEOPLE: A Palestinian woman hangs up her laundry while her husband watches Friday over their children in one of several tents erected for Palestinian victims of Israeli home demolitions, who are now facing the start of winter, in Arab east Jerusalem (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Arabs should support Israeli pacifists'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's foreign minister told reporters in Cairo Thursday that Arabs should support pacifists in Israel to help bring about a reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Amr Musa said "a significant movement favourable to peace exists in Israel" and that it "should be encouraged." He also called the Israel peace movement favourable to "Arab-Israeli reconciliation [and] the establishment of a Palestinian state." Foreign Minister Musa was responding to questions about his attendance Monday at the inauguration in Tel Aviv of a new peace centre founded by former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Panel formed to draft new Sudan constitution

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has formed a 377-member commission to draft a new constitution for the country, state television said. Gen. Bashir appointed John Wol, a Christian from the Bahr Al Ghazal area in southern Sudan, as the alternative chairman of the panel, the broadcast said Thursday night. Former chief justice Khalafallah Al Rashid was appointed by Gen. Bashir in July to head the commission, which is to present its proposals by December 30. Gen. Bashir took power through a military coup eight years ago, abolishing the existing multiparty system. He has ruled since then through interim constitutional arrangements. A permanent constitution has been a long-standing aim of the Islamist-military government, especially since elections for a new parliament took place in 1996.

Militant group makes threat in wake of hangings

CAIRO (AP) — An outlawed Islamist militant group has threatened to avenge the execution of four of its followers who were convicted of a series of attacks in Egypt in 1993. "These hangings will not bring security to this regime... nor will they undo our steadfastness. We will continue our holy war," said a statement by the Islamist group, which was sent to an Arabic newspaper. A copy was made available to the Associated Press. "The Islamic group, with God's will, will avenge our martyrs," said the statement, which was dated Wednesday. The statement did not say what form the revenge would take. The men were hanged Wednesday in a Cairo prison after President Hosni Mubarak turned down pleas to commute their sentences.

Lebanon court sentences Palestinians for killings

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese court on Thursday sentenced a Palestinian guerrilla leader to death in absentia and four others to prison terms for planning the killings of PLO officials in Beirut in the early 1990s. Wasfi Abdul Rahim, the hardline Fatah Revolutionary Council's (FRC) top official in Lebanon at the time of the killings, was sentenced to death in absentia for masterminding the shooting attacks. If Rahim is caught or surrenders he is entitled to a retrial under Lebanese law.

Israeli minister calls for crackdown on bedouins

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A far-right cabinet minister has called for a drastic crackdown on bedouins living on "state lands" in southern Israel, while warning that such action would likely spark a violent uprising.

In a report to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Agriculture Minister Raphael Eitan accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Arab members of Israel's parliament of coordinating illegal land takeovers by bedouins inside Israel, officials said on Friday.

Mr. Eitan, a former army chief of staff and head of the ultra-nationalist Tsomet Party, claimed that illegal land takeovers and building by bedouin clans in the Negev desert had reached "an unprecedented scope."

Details of the Eitan report were first revealed by the Haaretz newspaper on Friday and confirmed by officials from Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party.

Pini Badash, a Likud deputy, said Mr. Eitan's concerns were justified, claiming that bedouins had occupied some 200,000 hectares

of land in the Negev. "This needs an immediate solution," he said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Eitan said the government should use force and an "uncompromising stranglehold" to evict bedouin squatters from public lands, including cutting off water and electricity to unauthorized camps.

He also said the government should prevent bedouins from "importing wives" from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israel.

But he acknowledged that such action would lead to violence.

"We must be prepared for an increase in violence against any attempt to enforce the law," he charged, saying the violence could spread to the rest of Israel's 850,000-strong Arab minority.

Mr. Netanyahu forwarded Mr. Eitan's report to Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, another government hardliner in charge of overseeing Israeli state lands, Haaretz said.

After the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, authorities declared most of the Negev and vast stretches

of other formerly Arab areas "state land" on grounds it had been abandoned by its former occupants or that no one held legal title to the territories.

Bedouins say the new Israeli law was used to depose tens of thousands of the nomadic people from their traditional grazing lands.

"Eitan has a few crazy ideas that are based on racism and on a belief that we are not Israeli citizens," said Nuar Ughi, a representative of the bedouin Rights Association in Israel.

"On the contrary [to Eitan's report], it was the state which took bedouin lands and relocated bedouin clans in 1951 and 1952," he said on Israel radio.

An estimated 130,000 bedouins live in Israel and Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank. The heaviest concentration of the nomadic clans is in the Negev region.

Last year there was an eruption of violence between one southern bedouin clan and Israeli police which left some 40 policemen and 30 bedouins hurt.

Iraq calls for mediation with Turkey, accuses Iran of meddling

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraq Thursday called for a dialogue with Turkey over its incursion into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and accused Iran of meddling in the region.

"Turkey has behaved like an invader since the start," Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahhaf said in comments published in the Arab newspaper Al-Hayat.

The Turkish army launched an incursion into northern Iraq in September to chase down members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey.

It announced the start of a withdrawal a week ago, but a Turkish newspaper reported Wednesday that

Turkey is keeping thousands of troops in northern Iraq to police a security zone aiming to prevent attacks by PKK rebels.

"If it seriously wants to wipe out PKK campaigns from the north of Iraq, it should accept our proposal for cooperation between the Turkish and Iraqi governments to assure security inside their borders," Mr. Sahhaf said.

"But Turkey has not responded to our offer, proving there is a foreign conspiracy aimed at destabilising Iraq and violating its sovereignty," the minister said.

Turkey is allied in its campaign against the PKK with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the rival Kurdish factions which have con-

trolled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, while Iran has good relations with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"Iran is like Turkey, the Iranians are also opportunists when it comes to northern Iraq. They are meddling in the region but that will turn against them," Mr. Sahhaf said.

Iran recently launched air raids against Iraqi territory targeting Iranian opposition groups based there.

Mr. Sahhaf said Iraq has recently sent delegations to the north of the country to convince the rival factions to launch a dialogue with Baghdad but had yet to receive a response.

Palestinian killed by PNA police in Rafah in clan dispute

RAFAH (AFP) — Palestinian security officials sought to restore calm Friday in Rafah after a Palestinian was shot dead by police trying to break up a mob which attacked the governor's family in a clan dispute.

The riot began Thursday when members of the Dohier clan buried their "mukhtar," or clan elder, Musa Hamid Dohier, who died Tuesday from injuries after he was shot, allegedly by relatives of Rafah's Governor Abdullah Adu Samahdana, an official in the governorate told Agence France Presse.

Dozens of angry relatives of Dohier stormed a guest house run by the governorate of Rafah, a town on the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, where they were confronted by members of the

Ahu Samahdana family, he said.

The relatives hurled firebombs at the guest house, partially burning it, and demanded the resignation of the governor and the exile of his family from Rafah, said the official, who asked not to be named.

Palestinian security forces opened fire in the air to disperse the crowd and one man, Salem Mohammad Shaer, 22, was shot dead "by accident," the governorate official said. Four others were injured, including a relative of Shaer who was seriously wounded.

Police also arrested journalists covering the fray, later releasing them after confiscating their film, the Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds said, although the governorate denied the

claims. Palestinian security officials urged the families to "restore calm and solve their differences."

A rally in support of the Islamic Jihad planned for Friday in Rafah was postponed for security reasons in the wake of the riot, a Palestinian police spokesman told Al Quds.

The rioting had its roots in a long-time rivalry between the Dohier and Adu Samahdana, two of Rafah's most powerful clans. Such disputes in Palestinian society often lead to killings and revenge attacks.

Musa Dohier was shot outside his home last month after being invited to an "islamic" session, a traditional meeting between clan elders to end family disputes, Al Quds said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Twinkle
14:30 Muppet Show
15:00 World Of Geo
16:00 The Valley Between
16:30 Beakman's World
17:00 French programmes
19:00 Le Journal
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 The Newly Weds
20:30 Prism
21:10 Time Trax
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
23:59 Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Doha
11:20 Dhur
14:28 'Asr
16:58 Maghreb
18:15 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatfish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
623666

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising slightly but becoming cool at night. Clouds will appear at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In

Aqaba, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.,
Amman 13/27
Aqaba 18/32
Deserts 11/29
Jordan Valley 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24 Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent. Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 757253
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi 893542
Dr. Bahjat Bader 832542
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nabroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Nabhan 995743
Khalifeh pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111
637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010220
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power Company 815615

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642481/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mehas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital

09/900560

Im Sima Hospital

09/986732

Al Hikam Modern Hospital

09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

02/275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

02/272775

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital

02/247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:05 Damascus (RJ)

08:15 New Delhi (RJ)

09:25 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

09:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)

11:00 Colombo, Dubai (RJ)

14:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:10 London, Berlin (RJ)

20:40 Cairo (RJ)

22:25 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)

23:00 Paris (RJ)

01:30 Madrid (RJ)

04:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights

05:10 Jakarta (GA)

06:05 London, Damascus (BA)

12:00 Riyadh (SV)

12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:05 Vienna (OS)

15:30 Dubai (EK)

16:00 Doha (QR)

17:25 Antalya (TK)

19:10 London (GA)

20:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:15 Cairo (MS)

22:25 Beirut (ME)

22:45 Amsterdam (KL)

00:15 London (BA)

02:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

(No flights on Sunday)

05:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Aqaba (add) (RJ)

10:30 Amsterdam, Frankfurt (add) (RJ)

11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

12:10 Paris (RJ)

13:05 London (RJ)

13:45 Madrid (RJ)

17:00 Cairo (RJ)

20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

20:50 Bombay (RJ)

21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

23:00 Jeddah (RJ)

00:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

00:15 Aqaba, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights

03:00 Rome (AZ)

03:00 Athens (CY)

05:50 Larnaca (CY)

06:10 London (GA)

06:55 London (BA)

07:10 Damascus, London (GF)

13:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (SV)

13:30 Riyadh (SV)

45:50 Vienna (OS)

16:45 Doha (QR)

18:25 Antalya (TK)

20:10 London (GA)

22:15 Cairo (MS)

22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)

23:25 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)

03:00 Rome (AZ)

03:00 Athens (CY)

Royal Wings (RW)

(No flights on Sunday)

Queen meets with new rector of UNU

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday evening met with the new rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Hans van Ginkel, at Bab Al Salam Palace, according to a press release Friday.

Queen Noor and the rector reviewed plans for the sustainability of the UNU International Leadership Academy (ILA), which is based in Jordan and inaugurated its first session in June, welcoming participants and guest speakers from all over the world, the statement continued.

They discussed the anticipated emotional response of the participants to the session, as well as the commitments and the efforts of the participants to continue the work of the academy. Queen Noor, who chairs the ILA Advisory Board, mentioned the abundant e-mail from the participants, who wish to remain involved and who have decided to form an "International Leadership Forum" that will serve as an alumni association, according to the announcement.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reiterated the support of the government for the ILA, which he hoped will establish a permanent facility in Amman closely related to Jordan University.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and U.N. University Rector Hans van Ginkel discuss some of the issues concerning the International Leadership Academy (Petra photo)

the announcement read.

The 1997 Leadership Programme, which was held last summer, brought together 163 candidates from 63 countries. It featured workshops and interactive discussions with distinguished keynote speakers, such as His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Norway's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jan, and former president of the European Parliament Simone Veil, according to the statement.

These presentations covered five main categories: the U.N. and global leadership, leadership skills, south leadership, peace and security, and international leadership, the press release continued.

The International Leadership Academy is the first

global leadership training facility, as well as the first U.N. institution to be initiated and established in the Middle East. It seeks to provide training in leadership skills and attitudes while fostering commitments to sustainable development, sustainable democracy, civil society institutions, and peaceful resolution of disputes, the statement concluded.

Prime minister credits tourism, investments for improved economy

KARAK (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said the national economy is continually improving and national economic growth rates are satisfactory, thanks to the increase in the rate of investments and the improvement in the tourism sector.

Addressing a meeting of the Karak executive council during a tour in southern Jordan, Dr. Majali said the national economy was adversely affected in the past years, due to Jordan's stand in the Gulf war and following the conclusion of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty of 1994.

Everything is now returning to normal,

despite the difficulties of the past, he said.

Urging local residents to vote in the upcoming elections, he reiterated that the elections will be free and fair and the government will remain neutral in the process.

The prime minister stated that apart from organizing the general elections, his government will pursue the economic reforms programme, exert all possible efforts to ensure the success of the peace process, and enhance Jordan's ties with the rest of the Arab World.

Karak Governor Badreddin Widyani briefed the prime minister on the general situation in the governorate and prepara-

tions for the elections, stating that a total of 98,918 citizens are eligible to vote at the governorate's 151 voting centres.

He said 82 per cent of eligible voters have collected voter cards, adding that 2,100 officials have been entrusted with supervising and counting the votes.

In Tafileh, the second leg of his tour, Dr. Majali spoke on his government's plans to introduce decentralisation in administration, stating that each governorate will be handling its own affairs and operating under their respective fiscal budgets starting next year.

Referring to the Nov. 4

elections, the prime minister said the groups boycotting the elections believe that they can influence the government's current plans.

He pointed out that around 80 per cent of the electorate has now received their voter cards to take part in the elections.

Tafileh Governor Nayef Njadar told the prime minister that 32,111 citizens are registered to vote in the elections and will choose three representatives from 18 candidates.

He said 82 committees have been set up to supervise the election process in 15 voting centres.

Health professionals announce plan to strike four days next week

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Public sector professionals have declared further strike measures in support of their demands for pay increases and other benefits, announcing that four-day work stoppages will be observed four days this week, starting Saturday.

Bassem Dajani, Jordan Medical Association (JMA) president, made the announcement Friday, after contacts with the government to solve the crisis ended with no results.

Dr. Dajani, who is also the spokesperson for the several thousand dentists, doctors, and pharmacists employed by the government, said the three associations decided that their members will observe four-day work stoppages Saturday and Sunday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., return to work Monday, observe four-day strikes Tuesday and Wednesday,

and return to work Thursday.

"We have taken this decision because until now, we were not contacted by the concerned government authorities about any settlement for the present crisis, although we have declared that we are open for dialogue 24 hours a day," Dr. Dajani stated.

It is hoped that HRH Crown Prince Hassan, who received our appeal last week to deal with the crisis, will consider our case," he added.

Dr. Dajani said the strike is a means, not an end in itself, to help the health professionals obtain their rights, noting that the professionals have been striving for the past nine years to secure these rights.

As the strike enters its second week, the Ministry of Health and Medical Care announced that minister Ashraf Kurdi left Friday for Lebanon on official business and will return to Amman Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) announced Friday that they organised a general assembly meeting for its members to discuss their own demands for pay increases and decided to grant the government one month to find a solution to prevent work stoppages.

Hassan Jaber, president of the 6,500-member association, said the general assembly asked that the government be allowed one more month to consider their case before taking other measures to back their demands.

Mr. Jaber said the association has sent a letter to His Majesty King Hussein appealing for his intervention to settle the crisis, which he said resulted from the government's failure to meet the association's demands for the past several years.

In the letter to the King, the association said: "The Jordanian agricultural

engineers have approached the previous and the present governments to implement an agreement reached earlier, which provides for the public sector association members to receive a 120 per cent allowance, up from the present 90 per cent. They received no response.

"We are placing the matter in Your Majesty's hands, since we have been denied our rights as promised by the minister of agriculture, who failed to meet with the prime minister to discuss the issue, despite our repeated requests," the letter added.

Mr. Jaber stated that during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, the association was told that the government will not respond to its demands at present.

Out of the 6,500 registered agricultural engineers, 1,250 are employed by the government.

Police investigating year's 20th, 21st 'honour' murders

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police are questioning the relatives of a 35-year-old married woman who Thursday was found murdered for "immoral" behaviour, making her the 21st woman killed for 'honour' this year, according to official sources.

The victim, who was not identified by the authorities, was found in a street in the town of Karak with a severe head injury Thursday morning, the source said.

"The woman was hit on the head by a blunt object, which fractured her skull," the source told the Jordan Times.

The source added that the woman "was killed in a crime of honour and police are questioning her family members to determine the killer." He would not elaborate.

A police official contacted by the Jordan Times Friday evening refused to give any details.

"We cannot release any information until we conclude our investigation," the police official said.

Meanwhile, police are questioning a 40-year-old man who last week allegedly shot and killed his wife on suspicion of adultery in the town of Ruseifeh, near Zarqa, according to official sources.

Hanan Ayed Kayed, 28, was shot several times in the head and chest by her husband at around 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 in her family's house in the Hussein suburb. The suspect surrendered to the authorities shortly after the incident, an official source said.

The source told the Jordan Times that the man, who is also the victim's cousin, claimed that he killed his wife to "cleanse his honour," because he suspected that his wife was having a relationship with another man.

The source added that the husband had taken his wife to court a few months

before the incident on charges of adultery, but "Ms. Kayed, a mother of three, was acquitted by the court."

"Still, her husband was not convinced by the court's ruling and shot and killed her," the source added.

Head of the National Institute for Forensic Medicine Mo'men Hadidi told the Jordan Times Friday that the coroners who examined Ms. Kayed recovered eight bullets from her body.

Police declined to comment and said they were investigating the incident.

The two women became the third and fourth reportedly killed in a crime of honour in the month of October.

Dr. Hadidi confirmed Friday that more than 20 women, killed for "reasons of honour" in different parts of the Kingdom, were admitted to the forensic medicine institute this year.

Fuel, water authorities discontinue service to government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has not been providing service to a number of government departments since Oct. 18, due to their failure to pay fuel bills that total nearly JD200 million, according to JPRC General Director Abdul Wahab Zou'bi.

In a statement in Friday's press, he said the JPRC notified the concerned departments of the impending action three weeks ago, adding that some of these departments have since started settling their delinquent accounts.

Mr. Zou'bi said the JPRC has its own obligations to meet and is committed to paying large sums to the Ministry of Finance.

He added that the measures against these departments were inevitable and unless these departments pay their bills, no fuel can be supplied to them.

JPRC sources stated that at the end of 1996, accounts receivable totalled JD199 million, with Royal Jordanian (RJ) owing JD134.2 million to the refinery, the Jordan Armed Forces JD18.1 million, and the National Electric Power Company JD39.9 million.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Friday announced that water service was being cut off to a number of government departments that have failed to pay their bills.

Ministry sources quoted Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin as saying that only schools, hospitals, and welfare institutions were excluded from the measure.

The ministry reportedly has instructed its various departments in the governorates to cut off water supplies to departments in their regions that also failed to pay their bills.

The measure was only the first step in collecting payments, since the ministry cannot carry out its development projects without funds, the sources said.

The minister has given instructions to the water authority to discontinue service to households, companies, factories, and other organisations when their unpaid bills reach JD50, in a bid to make them pay their dues promptly, according to the sources.

Advisor returns after Bahrain, UAE visits

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's Advisor Salah Abu Zeid returned home Friday after visit to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he conveyed messages from King Hussein to the Bahraini and UAE leaders.

In Manama, Mr. Abu Zeid conveyed a message to Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khal-

ifeh on bilateral ties, regional issues, inter-Arab action, and issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifeh Ben Salman Al Khalifeh and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Ben Muharak Al Khalifeh, as well as other Bahraini officials.

In Abu Dhabi, Mr. Abu

Zeid met with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, to whom he conveyed a message regarding several regional issues, causes of common interest, Arab relations, and bilateral ties and means of fostering them.

In a press statement, Mr. Abu Zeid described his tour as completely successful at all levels.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* German film "Martin Luther" (part I) at Goethe Institut, Jabal Amman at 4:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553798), until Nov. 5.

* Plastic (abstract) art by Iraqi artist Maha Isma'il at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 30.

* Ceramics exhibition at the Silsal Ceramics workshop, Jabal Amman between 4th and 5th Circles, until Oct. 30 (Tel. 680128).

* Paintings by Dutch artist Jamal Khmais at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 30.

* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also dis-

playing a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Walid Nassrallah at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 28.

* Ceramics exhibition by Ra'd Dhaumi at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina, until Oct. 30.

* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al-Ebadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 553798).

* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aurà Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

German team evaluates standards project

AMMAN (J.T.) — An evaluation team from the German ministry for economic cooperation is visiting Jordan for two weeks to evaluate the GTZ Project for Metrology, Standardisation, Testing, and Quality Management (MSTQ), which has been conducted since 1991 in cooperation with the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM), according to a JISM press release.

The team consists of

Weiner Gocht, from the Research Institute for Technical and Economic Cooperation, Aachen University, and M. Lambert, from the Bremen Institute for the Analysis of Natural Commodities, the statement continued.

The work programme includes visits to Jordanian institutions, companies, and laboratories affiliated with MSTQ. The MSTQ project is relevant for Jordan in view of the fact that Jordan is

sheduled to sign in November 1997 the EU-Jordanian partnership agreement and is preparing for the WTO membership, according to the statement.

The team will also meet relevant Jordanian officials from various ministries and institutions such as the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Royal Scientific Society, Higher Council for Science and Technol-

ogy, and the Amman Chamber of Industry, the press release read.

The evaluation team will conduct an evaluation of the GTZ/MSTQ project to assess its progress and prepare proposals for the efficient continuation of the project, taking into consideration the motto of the project, "Jordanian products are competitive," the statement concluded.

Drug trafficking, money laundering and nuclear waste crash into summit

EDINBURGH (AFP) — The vulnerability of small states to drug trafficking, money laundering, nuclear waste and other scourges dominated the official agenda ahead of the Commonwealth summit here Friday.

Meanwhile, diplomatic wrangling over Nigeria, the regional super-power in west Africa, threatened to overshadow official proceedings as heads of government from the 54-nation Commonwealth gathered for their biennial summit.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeke Anyaoku unveiled a report, "A future for small states overcoming vulnerability", which he said sought to highlight the plight of small countries as globalisation sweeps across national economies.

The "small" label has been pinned to 45 Commonwealth nations, notably a string of island states across the Caribbean, the South Pacific, the

Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and some smaller African and Middle Eastern countries.

Mr. Emeke warned of "the possible marginalisation of small economies as a result of the progressive liberalisation of the global economy."

This was in line with the official agenda for the first Commonwealth summit to be held on British soil for 20 years — the role of trade and investment in the development of Commonwealth nations.

Mr. Emeke also pointed to the "vulnerability to criminal activities, such as money laundering and drug trafficking, and possible threats to security arising from the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste and nuclear material."

Small states also face widespread environmental threats, notably the dangers of sea level rises in the light of global warming.

President of the low lying

island state of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, said that global warming was the "most harmful" threat to small countries.

Natural disasters pose a major threat to small states, delegates said.

Prime Minister of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, Kenny Anthony, pointed to the "calamitous destruction" of neighbouring Montserrat, which has been ravaged by volcanic eruptions this year.

He said that "the international community has continued to be paralysed in its responsibilities" to the plight of the island's population.

While officials sought to move the spotlight onto the hardships of small countries, the most populous African country, Nigeria, continued to dominate diplomatic deliberations here.

The Commonwealth has already decided that Nigeria, which was suspended in 1995 in the wake

of persistent human rights violations, will not be expelled from the group.

But ministerial trouble shooters have drafted a fresh action plan against Nigeria that was to be debated later Friday.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said that ministers had drafted a "robust statement which plainly sets out the state of affairs in Nigeria and sets out a number of steps of pressure to try and get Nigeria back to a democratic rule."

Government sources said that the Commonwealth will be urged to match sanctions imposed by European states, under which the military regime of Sani Abacha faces visa restrictions, an arms embargo and a halt to sporting links.

Some of Nigeria's African neighbours have been unwilling to levy sanctions on the regional super-power, fearing the effect these would have on their economy.



A group of Nigerians protest outside the Edinburgh International Conference Centre after it became clear the 54 nation grouping would not heed their call for immediate sanctions (Reuters photo)

Climate negotiators work on treaty text

BONN (R) — Delegates from more than 150 nations began working Friday on the text for a United Nations treaty on global warming after the United States presented its controversial plans on cutting greenhouse gases.

The conference, which runs through Oct. 31, is preparing the ground for a U.N.-sponsored conference on climate in Kyoto, Japan in December.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel added his voice to the growing chorus of criticism of U.S. President Bill Clinton, who Wednesday outlined the long-awaited U.S. proposals on targets to reduce carbon dioxide output to 1990 levels in 10 years.

"We're not happy," Mr. Kinkel said in Tokyo after meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. "The industrialised nations, Japan, Germany and also the United States, bear the main responsibility."

"Who produces most of the CO2 has to make most efforts to restrict it," he said in a clear reference to the United States, which produces 25 per cent of the world's emissions.

Global warming is thought to be caused by a buildup in the atmosphere of gases such as carbon dioxide emitted from the burning of fossil fuels.

U.N. negotiators in Bonn said they were disappointed with Mr. Clinton's latest proposals for tackling global warming because too little was pledged to avert a potential climate disaster. The officials also said the United States was failing to live up to past commitments.

A team of White House officials arrived in Bonn Thursday afternoon to face down the chilly response and convince sceptical delegates that Mr. Clinton's plan would be the best basis for a climate agreement.

Mr. Clinton set out in a speech in Washington the U.S. intention to reduce its output of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012, tacitly admitting it would fail to do so by 2000 as agreed earlier.

Mr. Clinton's speech was the final piece in the puzzle. Now, all the plans of the major industrialised nations are on the table. But none of the negotiators here from more than 150 countries believe Mr. Clinton's offer was the last word on the subject.

A European Union call for 15 per cent reductions by 2010, has been backed by a large group of third world countries, which joined in the sharp criticism of the U.S. plan.

EU leaders as well as government officials in Germany, France, Britain and Japan have criticised Mr. Clinton's proposals as insufficient and disappointing.

Raul Estrada-Oyuela, an Argentine diplomat who is chairman of the current treaty negotiations, said he was baffled by the U.S. plan, and that he has long been disappointed by the U.S. track record on containing greenhouse gases.

Environmentalists say anything less than 15 per cent cuts would be a recipe for disaster.

Japan calls for return of commercial whaling

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan insisted Friday it should be allowed to return to commercial whaling after its request was turned down by the International Whaling Commission in Monaco.

"Japan should return to commercial whaling," said Yoshinobu Shimamura, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, adding that scientific evidence showed the whale population would be maintained.

Thursday Japan repeated its request to the whaling commission for a quota of 50 whales to be taken from its coastal waters, but was turned down by an overwhelming majority.

Japan has made the request every year for the past 10 years, saying a moratorium on whale hunting has caused distress and the disintegration of its coastal communities.

"The number of minke whale is actually increasing

and we will maintain our position favoring commercial whaling," Mr. Shimamura said.

Thursday, Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research said it would sell the meat of 100 minke whales it had captured in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, some of it destined for school lunches.

The institute is commissioned by the Japanese Fisheries Agency and catches some 400 minke whales a year in the Antarctic and 100 in the northwestern Pacific Ocean for what it says are scientific research purposes.

Whale meat is considered a rare delicacy by Japanese consumers and is served in specialised restaurants.

Japan has a 400 year history of whale hunting and the nation has met strong criticism from the international community for its so-called scientific, but lethal, research of whales.

S. Korea president seeks rapprochement with opposition

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Friday sought a rapprochement with the opposition as turmoil in the ruling party deepened less than two months from a presidential election.

In a rare tête-à-tête at the presidential Blue House, the president assured veteran opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung that the Dec. 18 election would be "the fairest in history," spokesmen for the two said.

The president also told Kim Dae-Jung, currently the leading candidate in opinion polls, there was no political scheme to reorganise the ruling camp to prevent the opposition from winning the election, the presidential spokesman said.

"I'll see to it that the polls prove to be the cleanest and fairest ever in history," Kim Young-Sam said.

He also assured the opposition leader that government agencies, including police and the secret service, would not interfere in campaigning.

"As long as I remain as president, there will be no intervention by any government agencies in the electoral process," Kim Young-Sam was quoted as saying.

The president's tête-à-tête with his old political foe was seen as a blow to the ruling New Korea Party's (NKP) own candidate Lee Hoi-Chang.

Mr. Lee this week turned on the president, calling for him to leave the party and for a probe of his 1992 campaign funding. The move caused a major split between presidential loyalists and Lee followers.

Tumult in the NKP deepened Friday after Mr. Lee, a former Supreme Court judge, spurned an invitation to meet the president. His supporters accused Kim Young-Sam of secretly supporting a

ruling party breakaway.

Mr. Lee's surprise attack on the president came after the prosecution suspended an investigation of slush funds which the NKP charged had been amassed by Kim Dae-Jung.

Mr. Lee Friday accused the president of ordering the prosecution to drop the case. Speculation has it that the president might have been blackmailed by the opposition in connection with his own 1992 election funding.

Apparently irked by the meeting, Mr. Lee boycotted his own interview with the president set for Saturday, saying: "It is meaningless to meet with the president because the prosecution has decided not to probe the slush funds (of the opposition candidate)."

Mr. Lee's aides accused the president of scheming to double cross Mr. Lee and switch his support to a former provincial governor and protégé, Rhee In-Je, who bolted the ruling party after the NKP nomination race in July ended in favour of Mr. Lee.

Recent polls opinion show that Mr. Rhee, with a 28 per cent support rate, is second favourite after Kim Dae-Jung who holds 36 per cent. Mr. Lee is ranked third with 15-to-18 per cent.

Friday's meeting was seen as a boost to Kim Dae-Jung, who is nearing a deal, through which he could secure the support of a second opposition leader, Kim Jong-Pil, in the presidential poll.

The president told Kim Dae-Jung the botched slush fund "exposé" had not been the work of the Blue House, indirectly pointing the finger at Mr. Lee.

"I was taken aback by the exposé. Had I known in advance, I should have objected to it," Kim Dae-Jung quoted the president as saying.

Inequality among sexes increases in Europe

STRASBOURG, France (AFP) — Women in the 40 countries that make up the Council of Europe hold few high ranking government posts with none president or premier and less than 20 per cent in parliament, according to a report by the council.

The report, entitled "Women in politics in member states of the Council of Europe," has pushed the council to organise a ministerial conference on the issue in Istanbul on Nov. 12-14 to draw up an action plan. According to the report, the least sexist Council of Europe countries are Sweden and Norway that respectively have 50 per cent and 42.11 per cent women in government. Third is France with 33 per cent of the cabinet made up of women.

Cyprus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovenia are at the end of the scale with no women in government. Only 14 out of the 40 countries have more than three women in government.

In parliament, Turkey comes in last with only 13 women among the 550 deputies. France ranks 23rd with 11 per cent women deputies and 5.6 per cent female senators, less than in Nordic states as well as Spain, Germany, Britain, Slovakia and Lithuania.

Woman rescued after weeks of torture by husband

ZION (R) — A woman who was held prisoner and repeatedly tortured for weeks by her husband was rescued after she managed to make a telephone call, police said Thursday.

"She was held five or six weeks against her will and literally tortured over that time," said Lt. Greg Nugent of the police department in Zion, a town north of Chicago near the Wisconsin state line.

"For the last week to 10 days we don't think she ate at all. She lost 18 kilograms and was tortured in just about every imaginable form," he said.

"She was beaten with a hammer, a table leg, burned, cut, stabbed with a fork. Her body is literally covered with bruises and cuts. Her husband was rubbing salt into the wounds and giving her salt baths after he cut her," he said.

"She was bound and put in a closet," he added.

Lt. Nugent said the woman was rescued Tuesday after she managed to make a call when her husband did not unplug the telephone as he had been doing.

The woman, Juanita Menses, 19, was being treated at a hospital. Her husband, Timothy Williams, 22, was held on \$1 million bond, charged with aggravated battery, aggravated kidnapping and criminal sexual assault. Lt. Nugent said.

He said Williams, when he was arrested, offered no explanation for what had happened.

"He just asked for a lawyer," Lt. Nugent said.

Child commercial sexual exploitation tackled in Oslo

OSLO (AFP) — United Nations and government officials gathered here for Monday's international conference on child labour face the complex task of how to eradicate perhaps the most chilling aspect of this trade: commercial sexual exploitation.

Every day, millions of children, in countries such as Thailand, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela are forced by pimps into prostitution, a highly lucrative area of child labour.

It's a juicy business: bars, hotels, massage parlours, centres for specialised guides and pornographic videos, sex-shops and sex tourism all generate billions of dollars.

Experts estimate that the latter alone, in places like Manila, Copacabana in Mexico and Pattaya in Thailand, yields \$5 billion per year.

Non governmental organisations (NGOs) describe the business as archetypal exploitation of the most vulnerable by the most powerful, perpetrated by wealthy clients, influential pimps preying on deprived families, illiterate children, street kids and ethnic minorities.

Pimps "recruit" children from the most impoverished districts in Brazil, India, Colombia, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Kenya, notes the NGO

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT).

Organised crime networks pluck, buy and exchange young girls in poor rural areas.

Nepal and India, Bangladesh and the Middle East, and on the northern Thai border are well-beaten paths of this trade. Thailand and Taiwan are pivotal points for child prostitutes destined for Australia, the United States and the rest of Asia.

Exploitation of these prostitutes comes from all sides, says ECPAT: from recruiters, pimps, bar owners, taxi drivers, night-clubs, sordid brothels, frequented by sailors, businessmen and tourists.

It is a plague creeping across all continents. In former Soviet-bloc countries, social fracture has prepared the ground for traffickers who procure or organise prostitution in stations in Russia and Ukraine.

On the German sex market, Russian or Romanian girls cost less than Thai adolescents, note NGOs.

In the United States, experts claim that between 100,000 and 300,000 children are involved in prostitution and pornography, serving 500,000 clients. Reinforcing this boundless market is the Internet, used to publicise specialised addresses and pornographic images.

Existing figures tell just half of the story.

U.N. estimates put the number of children enslaved in Asian brothels at one million. Other estimates, from NGOs, authorities, and university studies put the figure for Thailand at between 15,000 and 800,000. In India, say NGOs, 20 to 30 per cent of active prostitutes are children.

Estimates of children involved in the sex trade include: between 20,000 and 30,000 in Sri Lanka; 40,000-60,000 in Taiwan; 50,000-60,000 in the Philippines; 40,000 in Pakistan; 2,000-40,000 in Vietnam; 200,000-500,000 in China.

UNICEF investigations found 100,000 child prostitutes in Thailand and the Philippines, while one third of the 10,000 to 15,000 prostitutes in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) could be children.

These children are not unscarred by this exploitation: many die young, through sexually transmitted diseases or through drugs supplied by the pimps.

Reinsertion programmes exist (the International Labour Organisation has implemented these in 25 countries), but they only reach out to a minority. NGOs note that a childhood spent in prostitution can lead to a shattered adult life.

Hostage prepares to quit Grozny

MOSCOW (AFP) — Aid worker Christophe André prepared to leave Chechnya for Moscow Friday after almost four months of captivity, amid controversy over the circumstances surrounding his escape.

Chechen security officials said the Frenchman, who worked for the Medecins sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors without Borders) medical charity, was free to leave, although the precise date of his departure remained unclear.

"We hope that he will be able to reach Moscow during the day, and the problems with the local authorities have been resolved," an OSCE official in Grozny, who asked not to be named, told AFP by phone.

Magomed Magomarov, head of Chechnya's Anti-Kidnapping Bridge, told Interfax that the 30-year-old André was free to leave after his department had finished his enquiries into his escape.

Thursday, Chechen anti-terrorist chief Khunkar-Pasha Israilov had threatened to storm the OSCE compound unless he was allowed to question André about his escape.

A guard working for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is suspected of involvement in ransom negoti-

ations to secure Mr. André's release, and Mr. Magomarov refused to rule out an investigation into this.

The name of the OSCE guard, who lives in the Chechen capital Grozny, has not been released. The Chechen authorities want to interview a French citizen also at the OSCE mission in Grozny, Interfax said.

Mr. André was interviewed by investigators late Thursday, after Danish diplomat and OSCE mission chief in Grozny Rudolph Thomsen-Petersen met Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov to discuss the situation.

MSF has refused to say whether the organisation, which ran an aid operation throughout the 1994-96 Chechen-Russian war, received ransom demands for Mr. André.

Mr. Magomarov said the Chechen security services also wanted to interview the local people who drove Mr. André to Grozny after his escape. They risk a 10-year jail term if they acted as ransom intermediaries, Interfax said.

Thursday Mr. André, who was taken hostage July 1, told AFP how he had given his kidnappers the ship: "During dinner (late Monday) they removed my handcuffs which

held me to a radiator. "But one of the kidnappers forgot to close it again and I took advantage of it to escape by the window, and walked for an hour over fields before I stopped a car," he said.

The identity of the hostage takers was unclear, but they were acting for "essentially criminal" rather than political reasons, an MSF official said.

News of Mr. André's escape came the same day two Hungarian aid workers employed by the Geneva-based Action by Churches Together were kidnapped in Grozny.

Vladimir Shmaly, a spokesman for the Russian Orthodox Church, told AFP that about 20 gunmen, some in military uniforms, burst into the organisation's office, disarmed the five guards and took off the two Hungarian men. A Hungarian woman was left behind.

Two Britons, other four French nationals, a German, a Yugoslav and two Russian Orthodox Church aid workers are also missing in apparent kidnappings in or near Chechnya.

Chechnya won de facto independence from Russia in the war, but is not recognised by Moscow and is awash with weapons and lawless groups.

Sumatrans adjust to life with the haze

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesians living on Sumatra have had to adjust to living with the choking smoke emanating from forest and bush fires on the country's westernmost island, reports said Friday.

"I've had to wear a protective mask in my courtroom... as the haze has filled the room," Judge Ali Syaruddin told the Jakarta Post.

The normally lush province of stepped rice terraces is the latest area to be consumed by an acid haze that for months has been plaguing the neighbouring provinces of Jambi and Riau.

Suridman, a resident of West Sumatra, told the Post: "I don't leave the house without my mask, and when riding my motorcycle, I always turn my headlights on to avoid accidents." The airport in Padang, the capital of West Sumatra, has been closed since Tuesday while day and night in the province of Jambi are reported to be indistinguishable as the haze blots out the sun.

"The haze is so thick that motorists can't see each other," the daily quoted a delivery man as saying.

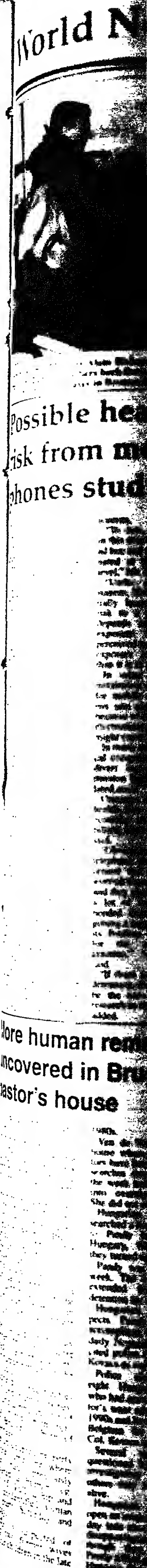
Jambi, according to the meteorology headquarters here, is one of the four regions in Indonesia, three in Sumatra and South Kalimantan on Borneo Island, hardest hit by the haze that refuses to dissipate. Health officials in Jambi have seen a rise of between 40 and 50 per cent in the number of patients seeking treatment for respiratory ailments, asthma and lung bronchitis, especially children. At least six Indonesians have died of haze-related ailments while the health of more than 40,000 others have been affected, officials have said.

Satellite images continue to pick up hot spots on Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo Island.

The country has received international aid in the form of financial assistance and water bombers, but efforts to subdue the blazes have been hampered by a drought said to be the country's worst in 50 years.

The country's leading environmental watchdog, Walhi, has estimated that roughly 1.7 million hectares of forest and ground across the country have been affected by the fires.

Rains and shifting winds cleared the sky over some regions in early October, but the haze has since returned to the provinces and neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore, where residents remain on alert.



Inequality among sexes increases in Europe

STRASBOURG, France (AFP) — Women in Europe are facing a widening gap in pay and opportunities compared to men, according to a new report by the European Commission.

The report, titled "Women on the Margins," states that while women's participation in the workforce has increased, their pay remains significantly lower than men's. It also notes that women are often concentrated in lower-paying, less secure jobs.

The report also highlights the challenges women face in balancing work and family life, particularly in countries where social services are limited. It calls for greater equality in pay and opportunities for women across all sectors of the economy.

The report also notes that women are often the primary caregivers for children and the elderly, which can limit their career advancement and earning potential. It suggests that governments should provide more support for families and workers to address these issues.

The report also mentions that women are often underrepresented in leadership positions and decision-making roles in the workplace. It calls for more measures to promote gender equality and to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men to advance in their careers.

The report also states that women are often paid less than men for the same work, a phenomenon known as the gender pay gap. It calls for greater transparency in pay and for measures to close this gap across all countries in Europe.

The report also notes that women are often the primary victims of violence in the workplace and at home. It calls for stronger laws and enforcement to protect women from such violence and to ensure that they can work in a safe environment.



French Defence Minister Alain Richard (right) greets at Roissy airport, near Paris, one of the 32 French soldiers back from Congo where they were in charge of the security of the French embassy in Brazzaville (AFP photo)

Possible health risk from mobile phones studied

VIENNA (R) — Scientists from 10 countries said Thursday they had no evidence that mobile telephones can cause cancer, but they called for speedy research into the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) on the human body.

A spokesman said after a conference in Vienna that poor communication among researchers, governments, industry and the public was partially to blame for anxiety about EMF sources such as mobile telephones and power lines.

The rapid increase in the use of mobile telephones has led to scare stories in many countries about exposure to emf causing cancer and other diseases, especially in children.

"This is something that we hold as a high priority, and we want to find out if these electromagnetic fields do produce cancer," Michael Repacholi, manager of the international EMF project of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said.

"Certainly there is concern among scientists that we would like to know what is going on because something could be happening that we did not know about before," he told a news conference.

The EMF project, which was launched last year, is a five-year \$3.3 million programme to study possible health hazards stemming from exposure to an ever-increasing number of EMF sources.

"To date, health research in this area has been largely ad hoc and totally uncoordinated at the international level," Mr. Repacholi said.

"Under certain circumstances, EMF can be potentially hazardous, and the risk to a person's health depends on the level of exposure. Sometimes, the perceived risk from such an exposure is much higher than it is in reality."

In some countries, the installation of base stations for mobile telephones has run into public opposition because of concerns that the electromagnetic emissions might cause cancer.

In many countries, electrical companies have had to divert high-voltage transmission lines around populated areas.

Singapore adjourns oil spill captain cases

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore court Friday adjourned for four weeks the case against the captains of two oil tankers that collided and spilled 29,000 tonnes of oil into the Singapore Strait.

At the request of the prosecution, Judge See Kwee Oon adjourned until Nov. 21 the cases against Michael Chalkitis, captain of the Cyprus-registered Evoxikos, and Jan Sokolowski, captain of the Thai-owned Orpin Global.

"Our investigations are still incomplete," Lalchand Sheri, a maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) legal officer acting for the prosecution, told the court.

Charged with reckless navigation, both men were released Thursday on Singapore dollars 100,000 (\$63,000) bail and walked out of court Friday with the terms unchanged.

If convicted, Mr. Chalkitis, a 58-year-old Greek, faces a fine of up to \$850,000 and two years in jail. Mr. Sokolowski, a 54-year-old Pole charged with a slightly different offence, could be jailed for up to six months and fined \$81,000.

Singapore authorities have retained the passports of both men.

Lawyers working on the case said there was no indication of exactly when the investigation into one of southeast Asia's worst oil spills would end.

"It could be over in two to three days, but things could be impeded to some extent because Malaysia is holding the Orpin Global," said one lawyer who declined to be identified.

Singapore investigators now have to go through Malaysian authorities before they can question crew members and inspect the Thai-owned vessel, the lawyer said.

Only a small quantity of oil has been recovered from the sea by the international emergency clean-up which has been under way since Oct. 16, when the accident happened, advisers to the operation said.

Friday, the number of boats working on the clean-up in Singapore waters was halved. The MPA said 26 crafts were currently on duty, compared to 52 Thursday.

The boats were using absorbents and skimmers to remove oil, and laying booms to prevent it from washing ashore. The MPA said it had stopped using dispersants.

U.N. rights official to urge Khmer genocide investigation

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A senior U.N. official is to recommend next month sending experts to Cambodia to examine the evidence of genocide against Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, a local paper reported Friday.

Thomas Hammarberg, the U.N. special representative for human rights in Cambodia, will make the recommendation to the U.N. General Assembly after Pol Pot denied responsibility for the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror in his first interview in nearly 20 years, the Cambodia Daily said.

The paper quoted David Hawk, director of Cambodia office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, as saying Mr. Hammarberg would ask that Secretary General Kofi Annan be authorised to send U.N. experts to evaluate the evidence.

The assignment of experts, which Mr. Hammarberg first announced he would be requesting last month, will be the first step in assembling an international tribunal to try the Khmer Rouge leadership on war crimes and genocide charges, which have been requested by the government, Mr. Hawk said.

"The first interview with Pol Pot in 18 years ... highlights yet again the need for a genuine process to hold accountable and assess individual responsibility for the massive killings and torture between 1975 and 1979," the paper quoted Mr. Hawk as saying.

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Fate of French detainees seen as test of relations with Congo

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — The case of three French nationals held in Congo's second city Pointe Noire after Denis Sassou Nguesso's armed victory was seen Friday as a test of relations between Paris and Brazzaville.

Informed sources said that General Sassou Nguesso's forces, who ousted president Pascal Lissouba last week, would be prepared simply to expel the Frenchmen but is linking this decision to the chance to question expatriates of several nationalities who have taken refuge in the French consulate.

The foreigners are said to include men who had ties with former rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which fought the Luanda government for almost two decades after indepen-

dence from Portugal in 1975.

The ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos played a decisive part in Sassou Nguesso's power grab by sending troops and armour to back his entry into Pointe Noire on Oct. 15 and to establish control of the airport in the Congolese capital Brazzaville.

The three French nationals, who include a businessman who has worked in Paris's former colony for many years, were being held at the central police station in Pointe Noire, the economic capital, where consular officials on Thursday found them in reasonable health, though at least one of them had been beaten up.

Supporters of Gen. Sassou Nguesso, who was mil-

itary ruler between 1979 and his defeat in multiparty polls by Lissouba in 1992, accuse the expatriates of being "mercenaries" who had very close links with the elected head of state, who found temporary asylum in Burkina Faso, last weekend.

Sources in Brazzaville, however, said that the only real mistake made by the French three was to seek to continue trading with Lissouba's side right up until his military rout.

Rightwing President Jacques Chirac of France, which has a considerable stake in the country through Elf-Congo, the subsidiary of petroleum giant Elf-Aquitaine with oil facilities in Pointe Noire, was reported to have telephoned Gen. Sassou Nguesso last Tuesday to stress his great concern at the fate of the Frenchmen.

The three are being held notably with six Russian pilots who flew Mi-24 helicopter gunships to attack Gen. Sassou Nguesso's positions during the civil war, which broke out in June after Mr. Lissouba sought to disarm rival militias ahead of presidential elections which never happened.

Gen. Sassou Nguesso's Cobra militia has shown hostility to the expatriates, threatening them with summary execution.

Angola's part in the conflict also has a bearing, since Luanda initially justified intervention in Congo on the grounds of pursuing hostile forces from across the border.

Luanda is concerned to secure its northern frontiers and the oil enclave of Cabinda with the help of new-found allies in Brazzaville and the former

Zaire, now ex-rebel Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of Congo.

Separatist armed factions of the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front (FLEC) and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA have been active in both northern Angola and in the economically vital oil province, formerly Portuguese, which lies between a strip of DRC and Congo and went to Luanda on independence.

Interviewed by French private television TF1, Gen. Sassou Nguesso, who drove into Brazzaville to establish his authority Thursday, said a legal enquiry into the case of the French detainees was under way and that he had proof that they had cooperated with Mr. Lissouba.

Gen. Sassou Nguesso said the three should be expelled.

Albright criticises religious freedom bill

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Thursday attacked a religious freedom bill pending in Congress as bureaucratic and damaging to U.S. foreign policy interests.

Ms. Albright took aim at the bill in a speech at Washington's Catholic University of America at the so-called Wolf-Specter Act, which seeks to punish other countries that persecute religious groups.

The bill, introduced by Republican Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, and Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, would set up a White House office for religious persecution monitoring that would impose sanctions on offending countries.

"Although well-intentioned, this bill would create an artificial hierarchy among human rights with the right to be free from torture and murder shoved along with others into second place," Ms. Albright said.

"It would also establish a new and uneeded bureaucracy and deprive U.S. officials of the flexibility required to protect the overall foreign policy interests of the United States," she told the university's Columbus School of Law.

The freedom from religious persecution act, which has not so far been approved by either house of Congress, would empower the proposed office to cut off all but humanitarian aid and impose other sanctions. It is strongly opposed by U.S. industry.

Although the bill was attacked in congressional testimony last month by Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck, Ms. Albright was the most senior official so far to go public with the administration's criticisms.

Mr. Shattuck told Reuters Thursday that the administration was working with Congress to try to improve the law, which is currently with the House of Repre-

sentatives International Relations Committee and has not been considered by the senate.

He described it as a "very blunt instrument" that in its current form took no account of whether sanctions would be effective or counterproductive.

Mr. Shattuck noted that a State Department report on religious persecution issued in July covered 86 countries. "Any of them would be within the scope of the legislation as currently drafted," he said.

In her speech, Ms. Albright said that while religious freedom was a key U.S. goal, "if we are to be effective in defending the values we cherish, we must also take into account the perspectives and values of others."

"Even the most patriotic among us must admit that neither morality, nor religious freedom, nor respect for human rights were invented (in the United States) — nor are they perfectly practised here," she added.

More human remains uncovered in Brussels pastor's house

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian police has found more human remains in a house belonging to a pastor accused of murdering six members of his family, a public prosecutor said Friday.

The remains were found in one of three Brussels houses of Belgian-Hungarian pastor Andras Prady Thursday, said prosecutor Hilde van de Voorde.

Prady denies all the charges against him.

Van de Voorde told a news conference that the remains were "part of an arm, as well as finger parts."

She would not say whether the finds were related to earlier discoveries of human remains in the Prady case.

Wednesday investigators had found human bones, teeth and a ring in one of Prady's homes in the rundown Brussels suburb of Molenbeek.

The unoccupied property was the same one where police had previously uncovered a human leg, pieces of skull, a hip and other unidentified human body parts Saturday and Tuesday.

Pandy is suspected of killing two former wives and four children in the late 1980s.

Van de Voorde said the house where 30 investigators have been carrying out searches since the start of the week had been broken into overnight Thursday. She did not elaborate.

Hungarian police also searched a house belonging to Pandy in Dunakeszi, Hungary, Wednesday but they turned up nothing.

Pandy was arrested last week. The court Tuesday extended his preventive detention for one month.

Hungarian police suspects Pandy of having accomplices, the Hungarian daily Nepszabadsag police cited police Colonel Lajos Kovacs as saying Friday.

Police also identified eight Hungarian women who had answered the pastor's want ads in the early 1990s and lived with him in Belgium for some time, Col. Kovacs said.

Several women were questioned by police but investigators feared that others may no longer be alive.

Hungarian police will open an investigation Monday into about 60 suspect disappearances even though they doubt that Pandy killed any people in Hungary, Col. Kovacs said.

Study casts doubt on ancestral link of birds and dinosaurs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two paleontologists have completed an analysis of bird and dinosaur skeletons that brings into question the theory that the two species belong to the same family, according to a study that appeared in Science magazine Friday.

The existence of an ancestral link between birds and dinosaurs has fascinated the scientific community since the 19th-century discovery in Germany of the two completely preserved fossils of the archaopteryx, an animal with both wings and a reptile skeleton, encased in 150-million year-old rocks.

If this unique fossil brought about the idea that birds and theropod dinosaurs are two branches of the same genetic tree, then the later discoveries of differences in the skeletons of the two species have cast doubt on the truth of the theory.

But each time, an essential characteristic of all of these fossils has brought the researchers back on the orthodox evolution-

ary path. Like theropod dinosaurs, the archaopteryx and modern birds only have three "fingers" on their arms or wings.

It is this characteristic that, according to Ann Burke and Alan Feduccia of the University of North Carolina, proves that the dinosaur and the ancestor of birds do not share a direct link.

By studying the disposition of the three "fingers" in the wings of a bird, the two researchers noticed their similarity to the numbers two, three and four in the series of five present in most other vertebrates. However, the three fingers of theropod dinosaurs were similar to the numbers one, two and three, the researchers said.

"This important developmental evidence that birds have a 2-3-4 digital formula unlike the dinosaur 1-2-3 is the most important barrier to belief in the dinosaur-origin theory," British specialist Richard Huxley, of the University of Wales, wrote in an editorial accompanying the study.

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So what is to be done? With the crumbling of the peace process, many Palestinians

AFM trading rockets by 388%

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) recorded a remarkable increase of 388.1 per cent over the previous week as a result of selling a large chunk of Jordan Kuwait Bank (JKB) shares held by Bank of Jordan to the Social Security Corporation, a broker said Friday.

The decision by Bank of Jordan Chairman Tawfiq Fakhouri to sell more than two million shares has played a major role in the increase of the stock mar-

ket's turnover. Ziad Al Basha, securities manager at the British Bank of the Middle East, said.

Another reason that helped improve the general trend in the bourse, Mr. Basha said, was the good performance of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) in the first half of this year.

He added that the JCFC's performance during the first six months of this year was partially affected by the Israeli closures of Palestinian cities, a major market for the Jordanian cement. "But the good news that the company declared in

August and July has enhanced the confidence in its shares and led to an increase in its prices," Mr. Basha told the Jordan Times.

The weekly bulletin of the AFM, as the bourse is officially known, showed that the volume of trade amounted to JD20.5 million compared with JD4.2 million posted the previous week.

The share price index, based on 60 major companies from among the companies registered in the bourse, closed at 170.84 point compared with 170.28 point in the previous

week.

The banking sector led other sectors with JD14.59 million turnover followed by the industrial sector with a turnover of JD4.37 million.

The services sector and the insurance sector followed with JD1.49 million and JD0.02 million respectively.

Last week trading involved the shares of 89 companies. Shares of 24 companies recorded gains, 49 firms witnessed a decrease in their prices and the prices of the remaining 16 closed were unchanged.

Dow Jones falls 1.7%; gold plunges to 12-year low

NEW YORK (AFP) — The Dow Jones blue chip index closed 132.36 points, or 1.68 per cent, lower at 7,715.41 here Friday. The index rose initially by nearly 100 points in the wake of a recovery by the Hong Kong exchange, which closed 6.9 per cent higher after its record plunge Thursday of 10.41 per cent.

The average yield on the Bellwether 30-year treasury bond was 6.28 per cent from 6.32 per cent Thursday and 6.34 per cent at midday.

Trading was heavy throughout the day, with 677 million shares changing hands. Decliners outnumbered gainers by a margin of 1,492 to 1,333 with 545 issues unchanged.

Heavy gold selling and swings in the bond market added to the volatility, along with big drops in technology stocks.

Since hitting its record high of 8,259.31 points on Aug. 6, the Dow dropped 6.6 per cent against a 20 per cent rise since the beginning of the year.

The bond market also benefited from an easing of fears that the Federal Reserve Board would raise U.S. interest rates on Nov. 12 in an effort to hold down inflation.

It is believed that the economic recession in South East Asia could help slow U.S. economic growth, acting as a restraint on inflation.

Gold hit its lowest level in 12 years here, falling \$15.70 to \$307.30 an ounce

because of massive liquidations and short covering.

The Asian stocks regained some ground Friday, buoyed by Hong Kong's strong rebound from a stock market crash that caused a chain-reaction of sell-offs in bourses around the world.

"Things are showing signs of coming back to normal more quickly than people expected," Howard Gorges of South China brokerage told Hong Kong Radio after the market closed for lunch showing a 4.5 per cent gain.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index ended the day at 11,144.34 points, up 718.04 or 6.88 per cent from Thursday's disastrous close.

Thursday's 10 per cent collapse, Hong Kong's worst since the 1980s, sent share prices tumbling worldwide, and markets opened sharply lower in Asia the next morning.

As Hong Kong began recovering, it pulled other markets along with it.

Small-time investors crowded around public screens in Hong Kong, to watch the market moves but showed no signs of panic. Many said they planned to hold on to their shares until prices rebound.

Others noted that Thursday's crash followed a year of giddy rises past the 16,000 mark, which some economists had said was excessive. The market had been in the 12,000 range one year ago, not dramatically higher than Friday's final 11,144.34 level.

Independent investment analyst Marc Faber, who had long predicted a market fall, said it might well stay at the lower level and never see 16,000 again.

Newspapers forecast tougher times for mortgage-payers, restaurants and the luxury car market because of higher interest rates.

Saudi Arabia sees gas as key to massive expansion of power generation

YANBU, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — Saudi Arabia plans a massive expansion of its power-generation sector through projects to double gas production, Industry and Electricity Minister Hisham Yamani has said.

He also said that the oil-rich kingdom's electricity sector would be divided into generation, transmission and distribution networks.

"We anticipate an increased dependence of the power-generation sector upon gas," Mr. Yamani added.

He said the aim was to integrate the gas sector "and the sector based thereon, particularly the petrochemical industry, electric power and water desalination."

Demand for electricity in the kingdom is forecast to

shoot up from the current level of 20 megawatts to 70 megawatts over the next 25 years, the minister said.

He said it would need \$117 billion in investments and the sector would be "propelled on its own toward privatisation" for financing from abroad and domestically.

As an incentive to expand the gas network as a source of energy throughout the

Gulf state, Mr. Yamani confirmed that the price would rise in January from 50 cents per million BTU (British Thermal Unit) to 75 cents.

"The kingdom's decision to utilise gas for the national development, instead of exporting it, was wise and prudent, both economically and strategically," he said.

Mr. Yamani stressed that "the development process ... will continue to be based on the availability of gas as a feedstock in industry and as a source of energy."

Saudi Arabia, already the world's leading producer and exporter of crude, aims to convert from oil to gas for domestic power and free up even more oil for export.

Oil Minister Ali Al Naimi told the 15th World Petroleum Congress that his country plans to double its natural gas production capacity.

Saudi Arabia last year produced 41.3 billion cubic metres of natural gas, according to the B.P. Statistical Review of World Energy, and has proven reserves of more than 5,000 billion cubic metres.

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ACROSS
1 In a while
5 Tough question
10 Avoid
14 Impend
15 Bring forth
16 Sharpen
17 Moist
18 Recognizable
20 M. Poirot
22 Dingbat
23 Symbol of
24 Fair to middlin'
26 Superficially
28 Broad roads
32 Interval
33 Zestful
34 Tch's, gp.
35 — tree
36 Peter Pan's
37 One-liner
38 "My country, —
of thee"

10 Follow in secret
11 "soit qui mal"

12 Castry
13 Cozy abode
19 Dangerous
21 Instance
24 Arenose
25 Wild party
26 "The Magic —"
27 Rabbit fur
28 Window
29 Ancient settler
30 Baking
31 Wise people
33 Form of
36 Undulating
38 Italian poet
40 Aquarium
41 Typical
42 Pilgraged
43 Clergymen
46 Sprae

47 Con game
48 Forbidden
49 Fully aware of
50 Go out with

51 Happy
53 Distress signal
54 Word of mild
reproof
56 Goller Emile

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) There's a definite conflict between work and play this evening. You may even have to reschedule your date. If you kick yourself into high gear this morning, maybe you can get out later. But if you procrastinate, chances are you'll be grounded.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) You and your sweetheart need to spend a little more time together. You both enjoy doing projects. This is not work; it'll be fun. Getting the job completed is only one of your objectives for this weekend. Another has to do with maintaining the ties that bind your family together.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 21) It's time for you to clean house. You can think of lots of more interesting and important things to do than vacuuming under the bed. Today, you might want to enumerate those items in your head while you are vacuuming under the bed. Stop complaining. Look at it as an adventure.

MOON CHILDREN

(June 22 to July 21) This is a good phase for you, educationally. You're not smarter, although you appear to be. You just concentrate better. Find out what other people are paying for the services you provide. It's always nice to know what the competition is doing. If it's good enough, you might decide to let them become your new employer.

LEO

(July 22 to August 21) Get something for the house, or for somebody who lives there with you. You may have to take on an extra job or work overtime to pay for it. You're dancing on the edge of the sword. Your life is either great fun or just terrible, depending on your attitude. Make it be fun.

VIRGO

(August 22 to September 22) You will remember just about everything you see, hear or read today. Consequently, don't let a moment go to waste. Cram your head full of valuable information. If you can come up with a good way to market the skills you acquire today, your money worries are over.

LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22) You have a lot on your mind. You also have a lot on your lists. And everything has to be done soon. Don't let yourself be tossed around like a ping-pong ball. Be decisive. Figure out the schedule that will work best for the greatest amount of people, and save a little time for yourself.

SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21) Although yesterday was good, you had to work for every little thing you got. Today, your job will be effortless. People will want to do whatever you ask. They want you to manage them. And you're excellent at that job. Organize them all into groups and give them interesting assignments.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21) You could do some good planning. Focus on your career goals. Somebody's trying to get to your secrets. Don't tell everything you know, not even in private. Let people find out what you have in mind by your actions, instead of through your words.

CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 20) You have been working very, very hard lately. You know that already. What you may not have known is that you're getting luckier. With hardly any effort on your part, you'll have a glorious weekend. Whatever you have in mind will be much more fun with a group.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 to February 19) There's money coming in. This isn't just for you; it's coming into an account you share with other people. You're getting pressure from an older person to make a decision. Listen carefully, but don't commit yet. You need to know where you stand financially first.

PISCES

(February 20 to March 20) It's a pretty good day to get married. If you haven't reached that point, at least start making plans. Don't let an older person upset you later on tonight. Have you ever suspected that this person is pushing your buttons on purpose, just to see you light up? If you're calm, you'll take all the fun out of the game. Give it a try.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My doctor says I have a rare medical condition called 'good health'."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DENIK
USED
LISHEC
LOFUND

Answer: DENIK, USED, LISHEC, LOFUND

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUGH PARTY TWINGE NORMAL

Answer: The kind of advice you get from an old farmer — DOWN TO EARTH

Business Daily

Forecast for Saturday, October 25, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) There's a definite conflict between work and play this evening. You may even have to reschedule your date. If you kick yourself into high gear this morning, maybe you can get out later. But if you procrastinate, chances are you'll be grounded.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You and your sweetheart need to spend a little more time together. You both enjoy doing projects. This is not work; it'll be fun. Getting the job completed is only one of your objectives for this weekend. Another has to do with maintaining the ties that bind your family together.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It's time for you to clean house. You can think of lots of more interesting and important things to do than vacuuming under the bed. Today, you might want to enumerate those items in your head while you are vacuuming under the bed. Stop complaining. Look at it as an adventure.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) This is a good phase for you, educationally. You're not smarter, although you appear to be. You just concentrate better. Find out what other people are paying for the services you provide. It's always nice to know what the competition is doing. If it's good enough, you might decide to let them become your new employer.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Get something for the house, or for somebody who lives there with you. You may have to take on an extra job or work overtime to pay for it. You're dancing on the edge of the sword. Your life is either great fun or just terrible, depending on your attitude. Make it be fun.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You will remember just about everything you see, hear or read today. Consequently, don't let a moment go to waste. Cram your head full of valuable information. If you can come up with a good way to market the skills you acquire today, your money worries are over.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You have a lot on your mind. You also have a lot on your lists. And everything has to be done soon. Don't let yourself be tossed around like a ping-pong ball. Be decisive. Figure out the schedule that will work best for the greatest amount of people, and save a little time for yourself.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Although yesterday was good, you had to work for every little thing you got. Today, your job will be effortless. People will want to do whatever you ask. They want you to manage them. And you're excellent at that job. Organize them all into groups and give them interesting assignments.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You could do some good planning. Focus on your career goals. Somebody's trying to get to your secrets. Don't tell everything you know, not even in private. Let people find out what you have in mind by your actions, instead of through your words.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You have been working very, very hard lately. You know that already. What you may not have known is that you're getting luckier. With hardly any effort on your part, you'll have a glorious weekend. Whatever you have in mind will be much more fun with a group.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) There's money coming in. This isn't just for you; it's coming into an account you share with other people. You're getting pressure from an older person to make a decision. Listen carefully, but don't commit yet. You need to know where you stand financially first.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) It's a pretty good day to get married. If you haven't reached that point, at least start making plans. Don't let an older person upset you later on tonight. Have you ever suspected that this person is pushing your buttons on purpose, just to see you light up? If you're calm, you'll take all the fun out of the game. Give it a try.

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DAJANI'S BRAZIL JORDAN NOW IN EGYPT GEMS OF THE WORLD

Amman - Jordan
Amra forum Hotel
Phone : 5527118 Fax : 5527119

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Azar says foreign investments should go to primary market, new projects

**** FOREIGN INVESTMENTS** should be directed to primary and new projects in the industrial, services and tourism sectors and not to existing projects, Jordan National Bank General Manager Wasef Azar said in a lecture he delivered recently at the Petra Rotary Club. He explained that foreign purchases of equity in existing projects is nothing more than a transfer of ownership that does not benefit the country in creating new investments. Mr. Azar stressed that setting up new projects is better than spending the proceeds from the sale of shares of existing projects on various forms of consumption.

Mr. Azar said that for reasons of national sovereignty, priority should be given to local and Arab investors to buy shares that the government or individuals offer for sale at the Amman Financial Market. He emphasized that it is necessary that Jordan takes a unique position in the privatization process "in order to give politicians and businessmen some flexibility to determine the extent of government intervention that we need in the economic policies and production activity."

The banker did not see it necessary that the government relinquishes all of its productive investments but only those

"monopoly investments" at this time. He attributed that to the fact that government investments in many public shareholding companies do not come under the characteristics of "monopoly investments" because they exist in an environment full of similar entities. He indicated that the government's share in the capital of most companies, where it has an equity, is a limited stake. Furthermore, all the companies where government equity exists are managed as private companies although few exceptions exist.

"The deficiency, if found, is in the government continued intervention in appointing directors in some companies in such a way that does not always permit the opportunity to select the most appropriate candidate," Mr. Azar said noting that that does not necessarily mean that government-appointed directors are not suitable for the posts. He described the government investment in these companies over the past forty years as a national wealth and, as such, it is imperative that time be taken to change its status and characteristics. "This should be done in absolute transparency so that every citizen knows how these investments are being dealt with," the general manager concluded (Al Aswat).

ALO launches first stage of public phone project

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian firm on Thursday launched a new project to fix several hundred public telephone cabins in the capital as a first step towards expanding its venture throughout the Kingdom, spokesmen of the firm said.

The project, launched by the Trans Jordan for Communication Services Co. Ltd., ALO, with its Greek partner, the Organisation Telecommunication of Greece, envisages fixing

500 cabins in Amman in the first stage of the JD1 million capital project, said Shadi Abdul Salam Majali, director general of the Jordanian firm.

Mr. Majali said the second step of the project stipulates fixing a total of 3,000 cabins throughout the Kingdom in the first year of the project.

During the first three years the total will be 7,000 cabins as part of a plan that would raise the capital into JD6 million.

Mathew Vonazoutas, the deputy director who

represents the Greek firm which owns 50 per cent of the company's capital, said his firm will extend technical assistance to the project as well as maintenance work.

"The experience gained over five years in this field in Greece will be transferred into Jordan in few months," Mr. Vonazoutas said.

He told reporters at a joint press conference on Thursday that ALO will use a Greek-made cabins with French and German made cards that would

replace coins for the use in these cabins.

Mr. Majali said that ALO will sell two types of cards for the users of cabins. One type will cost JD3 for local, national and mobile calls and the other will cost JD15 which would allow users to make international telephone calls as well, he said.

He said that his firm has distributed the cabins in different places such as parks, markets, ministries, hotels and airports.

The telephone charges will include the fare of the

call, as priced by the Jordan Telecommunication Company (JTC), plus 10 per cent as additional tax, levied by the JTC, and additional 14 fils that would go to ALO.

Last April, the JTC has floated a tender to supply the Kingdom with the public telephone services. Eighteen firms applied for the tender but only two of them, ALO and JPP, were chosen by the JTC to carry out the project.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6325	0.4835	0.6557	106.48	1366.03	6.5595	166.37
DE Mark	1.5806	1.0000	0.7563	1.5548	163.33	2036.26	103.75	248.36
GB Sterling	2.0048	1.3125	1.0000	1.5548	163.33	2036.26	103.75	248.36
CH Franc	0.6557	0.4195	0.4195	1.0000	163.33	2036.26	103.75	248.36
JP Yen	0.0094	0.0061	0.0045	0.0061	1.0000	163.33	2036.26	103.75
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0005	0.0004	0.0005	0.0006	1.0000	163.33	2036.26
FR Franc	0.1536	0.0993	0.0746	0.0993	16.63	203.63	1.0000	248.36

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6325	0.4835	0.6557	106.48	1366.03	6.5595	166.37
Jordan Dinar	0.7050	0.4450	0.3375	0.4450	44.50	568.75	28.275	71.69
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1680	0.1275	0.1680	16.80	212.50	10.625	26.66
Bahrain Dinar	0.2747	0.1700	0.1290	0.1700	17.00	214.29	10.714	27.47
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1700	0.1290	0.1700	17.00	214.29	10.714	27.47
Kuwait Dinar	0.2747	0.1700	0.1290	0.1700	17.00	214.29	10.714	27.47
Emirates Dinar	0.2747	0.1700	0.1290	0.1700	17.00	214.29	10.714	27.47
Libanese/1000	0.0015	0.0009	0.0007	0.0009	0.09	11.43	0.571	0.143
Egyptian	0.2462	0.1550	0.1175	0.1550	15.50	196.25	9.775	24.62

Energy

Oil	WTI	Brent	UCL
WTI	19.78	19.92	20.00
Brent	21.28	21.15	21.15
Bonny	19.78	19.92	20.00
Dubai	19.78	19.92	20.00
UCL	20.00	20.00	20.00

Metal Prices

Metal	Price
Gold (oz's)	316.5
Silver (oz's)	4.82
Platinum (oz's)	416
Al (3 Months)	1597
Cu (3 Months)	2076
Zinc (3 Months)	1279
Lead (3 Months)	611
Ni (3 Months)	6225

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)




Currency	Rate
USD	5.53
GBP	7.00
JPY	0.42
DEM	3.47
CHF	3.48
FRF	1.83
ITL	6.85

Energy

Commodity	Price
Coffee (c/lbs)	156.25
Cocoa (5/ton)	1639
Sugar (5/ton)	295.7
Wheat (5/ton)	140
Soya (c/lbs)	24.64
Tea (5/ton)	152
Barley (5/ton)	0
Rice (5/ton)	420

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Rate
US Dollar	0.708
GB Sterling	0.955
DE Mark	0.395
CH Franc	0.474
FR Franc	0.1782
JP Yen	0.0063
NI Guider	0.3514
IT Lira	0.0007

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN														
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179														
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (18/10/1997 - 22/10/1997)														
WEEKLY REPORT														
														
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
RISE	LOW													
341.000	328.000 ARAB BANK	15.2	1.21	32	1220	404030	329.00	332.00	329.00	330.00	+1.00	331.172	0.28	4
1.960	1.890 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	0.00	0.00	150	5982	174882	1.89	1.88	1.82	1.84	-0.05	1.829	0.226	5
2.000	2.930 BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	7	2506	7391	3.00	2.95	2.95	2.95	-0.05	2.949	0.024	2
1.170	1.930 JEO. EAST INV. BK.	74.2	0.00	6	18650	21424	1.12	1.15	1.10	1.12	-0.01	1.149	0.187	2
2.600	2.330 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.9	0.35	42	20840	52814	2.58	2.56	2.49	2.49	-0.09	2.522	0.180	5
4.980	4.920 THE HOUSING BK.	15.0	3.86	36	56324	208817	4.90	5.04	4.98	5.03	-0.05	4.986	0.225	5
2.200	2.120 JOR. KHALIL BANK	11.1	0.00	15	422042	1321024	2.12	2.28	2.08	2.12	-0.10	2.130	0.205	3
0.870	0.780 JOR. GULF BANK	4.5	9.21	20	49800	37879	0.78	0.76	0.76	0.76	-0.03	0.761	0.249	4
3.600	3.600 ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.1	0.00	4	15000	50600	3.60	2.97	3.70	3.97	-0.17	2.987	0.150	2
3.730	3.620 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.2	2.43	151	60858	212996	3.64	3.63	3.43	3.50	-0.14	3.560	0.117	5
1.260	1.200 JORDAN JOR. INV. BK.	168.3	0.00	7	63000	75600	1.22	1.20	1.20	1.20	-0.02	1.200	0.358	1
2.900	3.500 JOR. INV. P.M. BANK	24.7	0.00	16	13129	50540	3.88	3.85	3.80	3.84	-0.04	3.849	0.131	5
0.990	0.880 BEIT-AL-HAL (BEITWA)	6	16.30	20	3700	2351	0.91	0.94	0.88	0.92	-0.01	0.906	0.185	4
6.040	2.650 ARAB BANKING CO.	17.2	0.00	3	265	939	3.75	3.57	3.57	3.57	-0.18	2.543	0.003	2
CASES														
1.300 1.200 ARABIAN SEC. INSUR. 9.8 0.00 1 250 338 1.30 1.35 1.35 1.25 +0.05 1.352 0.016 1														
1.960 1.760 JOR. PRIME INSUR. 5.2 7.98 12 10524 18908 1.90 1.92 1.87 1.80 -0.02 1.892 0.478 4														
INSURANCE SECTION														
14 10821 20503 INDEX NUMBER 114.68 CHANGE +0.09%														
2.050	1.890 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.32	157	93736	174604	1.89	1.90	2.82	1.00	-0.01	1.844	0.625	5
8.400	8.400 JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	1	35000	280000	8.40	8.00	8.00	8.00	-0.40	8.000	7.00	1
4.030	3.330 IREID ELECTRICITY	21.0	1.34	10	2550	9621	3.66	3.85	3.66	3.66	-	3.773	0.085	4
2.050	3.050 NIKED MINERALS	16.2	4.08	1	100	320	3.05	3.20	3.20	3.20	-0.15	3.200	0.086	1
7.010	7.010 JORD. OILFIELD PROD. FED.	7.7	0.00	2	1400	7501	7.01	7.00	7.00	7.00	-0.01	7.004	0.02	1
4.260	4.150 ARAB INTEL. HOTELS	12.6	4.88	10	92700	300070	4.15	4.10	4.10	4.10	-0.05	4.100	0.130	1
2.650	2.650 SHIPPING LINES	15.1	5.00	2	193	499	2.65	2.60	2.60	2.60	-0.05	2.585	0.003	1
3.360	1.270 NEXL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	3	200	257	1.27	1.30	1.27	1.27	-	1.205	0.04	2
0.920	0.820 REAL ESTATE TRD.	12.8	6.52	2	1550	1426	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	-	0.920	0.023	1
0.540	0.520 JORDAN INTEL. TRAD.	27.7	0.00	2	2450	1796	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	-0.02	0.521	0.01	2
7.950	7.150 ALARA 2	14.0	6.41	2	200	1555	7.15	7.80	7.75	7.80	-0.05	7.775	0.010	1
3.660	3.430 ARAB INTEL. INV. BND.	9.9	0.00	77	44500	162899	3.44	3.20	2.60	3.70	-0.14	2.679	0.440	5
1.900	1.900 ARAB EDUCATION	-	0.00	21	14050	13555	1.90	1.92	1.90	1.92	-0.02	1.913	0.330	4
1.830	1.760 UNILEVER CO.	8.2	6.29	24	11400	20009	1.77	1.77	1.79	1.79	-0.02	1.762	0.220	4
0.010	0.700 UNILEVER CO.	-	0.00	3	3500	2595	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	-0.01	0.741	0.070	2
SERVICES SECTION														
325 305239 1059064 INDEX NUMBER 111.64 CHANGE +0.53%														
1.000	1.000 ATTACHEES	-	0.00	2	1000	1005	1.00	1.01	1.00	1.01	-0.01	1.005	0.026	1
3.880	3.880 JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	22.1	3.35	244	97307	286195	3.88	3.26	3.03	3.28	-0.10	3.161	0.510	5
0.720	3.650 JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	10.0	2.78	0	50086	180301	3.65	3.60	3.60	3.60	-0.05	3.600	0.114	2
6.930	6.930 ARAB PETROL CO.	14.0	3.32	4	900	4802	6.90	6.02	6.00	6.02	-0.02	6.002	0.001	1
11.110	10.500 JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.7	9.07	63	9199	101745	11.11	11.16	11.00	11.02	-0.09	11.060	0.144	5
4.950	4.050 JORDAN TANNING	6.1	6.06	3	1254	1254	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	-	4.949	0.023	2
1.120	1.070 MOOLIN INDUSTRIES	9.2	0.43	3	5000	5300	1.07	1.08	1.06	1.06	-0.01	1.060	0.008	3
1.450	1.450 INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	-	0.00	20	3250	4701	1.49	1.48	1.36	1.36	-0.13	1.403	0.067	3
4.430	4.430 ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.8	4.66	155	53955	131792	4.43	4.40	4.14	4.29	-0.02	4.294	0.600	5
5.590	5.590 JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.9	4.21	3	1900	9025	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	-0.25	4.750	0.076	1
3.000	2.650 JORDAN PHARM.	9.4	6.73	2	107	300	2.60	2.80	2.80	2.80	-	2.800	0.000	1
1.270	1.270 JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	13.9	7.14	6	1250	1437	1.18	1.17	1.12	1.12	-0.06	1.150	0.030	2
1.000	1.000 RAPID INDUSTRIES	0.00	0.00	33	10000	12939	1.08	1.33	1.13	1.20	-0.12	1.194	0.090	5
6.000	5.600 DAR ALAMARA DV. INV.	14.2	4.31	35	25326	144919	5.60	5.80	5.60	5.80	-0.20	5.722	0.422	4
2.490	2.370 ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.8	10.04	21	15385	21315	2.39	2.50	2.41	2.49	-0.10	2.477	0.256	5
0.570	0.560 LIVESYCK & POWELL	10.4	0.00	5	1700	8800	0.50	0.51	0.49	0.49	-0.01	0.496	0.038	5
0.800	0.770 NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	2	1700	1294	0.79	0.77	0.76	0.77	-0.02	0.761	0.043	1
0.620	0.540 NATIONAL INDUS.	-	0.00	34	34950	19733	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.58	-0.03	0.565	0.083	5
0.590	0.550 INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	12	19400	10474	0.55	0.54	0.53	0.54	-0.01	0.540	0.005	5
4.770	4.770 JOR. CHEM. INDUS.	18.7	6.35	1	2500	477	4.60	4.40	4.40	4.40	-0.20	4.400	0.077	1
0.490	0.470 JOR. ROCKWELL INDUS.	-	0.00	10	500	325	0.47	0.45	0.45	0.45	-0.02	0.450	0.017	1
0.730	0.660 JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	-	0.00	10	4000	2651	0.67	0.69	0.66	0.67	-	0.663	0.089	4
1.350	1.280 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.9	5.30	28	10500	13682	1.32	1.32	1.29	1.32	-	1.303	0.210	5
0.700	0.650 KAMMER INVEST.	60.1	0.00	5	1250	768	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.61	-0.04	0.614	0.063	3
1.260	1.210 UNIV. MOON. INDUS.	470.9	0.21	34	73800	92065	1.26	1.26	1.23	1.24	-0.02	1.247	0.176	4
0.920	0.890 JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	11.8	11.36	15	3390	1986	0.91	0.90	0.88	0.88	-0.03	0.901	0.042	1
1.580	1.530 NEXL. CHLORIDE	14.4	4.50	3	750	1148	1.54	1.53	1.53	1.53	-0.01	1.531	0.010	1
0.890	0.840 JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	16.1	0.00	95	40467	35093	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.84	-0.01	0.843	0.008	5
1.190	1.130 INTEL. TOBACCO	6.7	0.00	59	133142	159645	1.18	1.22	1.17	1.22	-0.04	1.199	0.131	5
1.160	1.100 UNION CO. & VEN.	50.9	0.00	10	3642	4105	1.15	1.17	1.12	1.12	-0.03	1.149	0.001	4
1000 JORDANIAN SECTION														
925 1495596 4074920 INDEX NUMBER 116.16 CHANGE +0.94%														
GRAND TOTAL														
1774 6432745 19746883 INDEX NUMBER 170.84 CHANGE +0.32%														
														
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179														
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (18/10/1997 - 22/10/1997)														
WEEKLY REPORT														
														
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
RISE	LOW													
0.340	0.310 CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	-	0.00	3	11250	3700	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	-	0.329	0.341	2
0.900	0.390 JOR. TRADING FIRM	10.4	0.00	6	10025	39098	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	-	0.390	0.387	5
0.800	0.390 ARAB FIB. INVEST.	0.00	0.00	58	578500	231460	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	-	0.400	0.387	5
1.280	0.730 OXIDEX INV. SVT	0.00	0.00	57	107202	27792	0.78	0.76	0.75	0.76	-0.02	0.759	0.487	5
0.770	1.160 ARAB FOR INVESTMENT	78.7	0.00	12	48750	57555	1.20	1.20	1.18	1.20	-	1.181	0.222	3
0.870	0.750 AL-DAMRIYAN 751	71.0	0.00	17	31503	15542	0.75	0.78	0.71	0.74	-0.01	0.749	0.225	4
1.110	0.850 AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	295.7	0.00	8	36801	31433	0.86	0.84	0.84	0.84	-0.02	0.840		3
1.210	1.000 UNITED FOR PETRO. INV.	61.4	0.00	12	17500	19575	1.10	1.18	1.10	1.18	-0.08	1.124	0.167	4
0.520	0.450 ARAB FOOD & MED.	-	0.00	7	4000	1883	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	-0.01	0.471	0.114	4
0.390	0.390 ARAB INTEL. INV. TRD.	43.8	0.00	22	5500	2126	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.38	-0.02	0.387	0.210	2
0.260	0.230 JOR. INDUS. MACHS-JEMCO	-	0.00	13	17500	3885	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.23	-0.01	0.222	0.029	2
3.500	3.500 ARAB SECUR. PIPES	10.8	10.84	1	10000	35000	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	-	3.500	0.087	1
0.400	0.380 NEXL. TEXTILE	-	0.00	9	2350	823	0.39	0.37	0.37	0.37	-0.02	0.370	0.090	3
0.430	0.410 RAYFAX DEES & BOUTLIN	-	0.00	10	5488	2395	0.43	0.45	0.41	0.41	-0.02	0.436	0.366	3
0.660	0.620 KIDRAXY PHARM. 751	-	0.00	56	98922	38244	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.65	-0.01	0.647	0.161	5
0.770	0.750 JORDAN SECUR.	33.9	1.67	14	24007	18189	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	-0.01	0.755	0.141	4
0.460	0.460 ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	11.8	0.00	2	2878	1323	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	-	0.460	0.048	1
1.350	1.160 UNION TOBACCO 751	-	0.00	20	40527	45774	1.38	1.40	1.30	1.30	-0.08	1.129	0.811	4
0.680	0.450 ARAB PHARM. 851	-	0.00	10	7219	3650	0.44	0.46	0.45	0.4				



Titleholders Al Wihdat will go into the second round with a five-point lead (file photo)

Premier League's 1st round concludes

Wihdat maintain lead after 6-0 win

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first round of the Premier League Championship concluded Friday with no change on the 10-team standings following the ninth week of matches.

In Friday's games, both titleholders Al Wihdat and former champs Al Faisali scored impressive wins scoring nine goals altogether.

Al Wihdat consolidated

their lead after a 6-0 win over last-placed Al Karmel to lead the standings with 25 points, while Al Faisali scored a 3-0 win over Al Jazireh but remained in third place with 19 points.

Al Ramtha held on to second place with 20 points after their disappointing last minute 2-2 draw against 9th placed Shabab Al Hussein.

Al Hussein are fourth after their 1-0 win over Baqaa, while Al Ahli and Qadissieh remained halfway through the stand-

ings after their 0-0 draw. Al Wihdat remained the only unbeaten team in the competition hoping to win the second title of the year after winning the Cup Winners Cup at the onset of the season.

Al Faisali won the Federation Shield, and the fourth title of the year—the Jordan Cup—is now in its final stages.

The second round of the Premier League will kick off next month.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Wihdat	9	8	1	0	19	3	25
Ramtha	9	6	2	1	16	6	20
Faisali	9	6	1	2	27	9	19
Hussein	9	6	1	2	17	11	19
Qadissieh	9	3	2	4	10	13	11
Ahli	9	2	4	3	17	16	10
Jazireh	9	2	2	5	9	15	8
Baqaa	9	2	0	7	9	19	6
S.Hussein	9	1	2	6	6	16	5
Karmel	9	1	1	7	6	28	4

Brazil chief lets stars stay in Italy

ROME (AFP) — Mario Zagalo had good news for Italy's top clubs but bad news for U.S. soccer fans on Friday, when the Brazil coach said his best players will miss the Gold Cup next February.

With Inter Milan having built their team around Ronaldo, AS Roma's defence based on Aldair and Cafu and AC Milan needing Andre Cruz and Leonardo, the top Serie A sides had all been fearing the worst.

Already resigned to losing their men for three league games during the Confederation Cup in Saudi Arabia in December, they were dreading another full-scale call up for the U.S. tournament from Feb 1-15.

But Zagalo explained that there are limits on the number of friendlies which a coach can insist on players leaving their clubs to attend.

"In December, I'll be taking the players I'm most interested in with me to Saudi Arabia, those that I plan to take to France for the World Cup," he said.

"The Confederation Cup is an official FIFA event, unlike the Gold Cup, which is being organised by CONCACAF and which could also cause me a few problems over the number of friendlies."

"There are five games in the Gold Cup and if I make all the probable World Cup squad play each match, I'll use up my bonus. As a result, I'd lose the right to call them up for two or three games, which I think would be more important and more revealing, and which I'd like to play just before the World Cup."

"There's one in March against Germany, one in April — but against who I don't know yet, and a third in May. My intention, as far as the tournament in February is concerned, is to leave the best players behind. And I obviously won't be calling them up for the friendly against Wales at Brasilia on November 12."

On Italy's chances of qualifying for France '98 in their play-off with Russia, Zagalo said: "In Moscow, Italy will not be playing against Russia, they will be playing against themselves."

"Qualifying is entirely down to them, and if they don't make it, it will mean they don't deserve it and aren't in a condition to go to France."

But he added: "People might think that I'm crazy, but I'll be supporting Italy. They've won three World Cups and the tournament would be all the poorer without them."

Rodman stays with the Bulls

CHICAGO (AFP) — Forward Dennis Rodman has re-signed with the Chicago Bulls for one more year, the Bulls announced Thursday.

There were no further details on the deal, which was announced shortly after a deadline set by the Bulls for Rodman to give his final response.

On October 8, the two sides had agreed to a deal reportedly worth \$4.5 million in base salary plus a similar amount in incentives tied to Chicago Bulls victories.

But Rodman, the National Basketball Association (NBA)'s rebounding champion the last six years, had

balked at signing and threatened to retire after complaining about what he saw as an unfair incentive-laden contract.

Two weeks ago, Rodman was not able to complete a physical at the time due to a case of bronchitis. He finally passed the physical over the weekend and met with general manager Jerry Krause.

Rodman made \$10 million last season and helped the Bulls win a fifth NBA title in seven years.



Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli (L) fights for the ball with Tromso's Stein Nilsen (C) as an unidentified Chelsea player comes in for support (R) during a blizzard which hit the second-round first-leg match. Tromso, 150-1 outsiders to win the European Cup Winners' Cup, upset favourites Chelsea 3-2 during a freezing night of farce deep inside the Arctic Circle (Reuters photo)

European Cup Winners Cup

Vicenza and Stuttgart all but book their places

PARIS (AFP) — Vicenza and Stuttgart looked certain for a place in the third-round of the European Cup Winners Cup Thursday night when they swept to away victories — Vicenza scoring a 3-1 win against Shakhtar Donetsk in the Ukraine and Stuttgart hammering Ekeren 4-0 in Belgium.

But it took two goals in the last five minutes from Italian ace Luca Vialli to keep Chelsea in the hunt against Norwegian scorers Tromso who scored a shock 3-2 home victory on a water-logged home pitch in a match which ended in near blizzard conditions.

Elsewhere, French second division Nice twice came from behind to force a 2-2 draw against visiting Slavia Prague while Greek hopes AEK Athens and Betis of Spain scored 2-0 home wins over Sturm Graz of Austria and FC Copenhagen.

In the other matches Lokomotiv Moscow snatched a 2-1 win over visiting Kocaelispor of Turkey and Roda JC Kerkrade of the

Netherlands were 2-0 away winners over Primorje of Slovenia.

For Vicenza, Pasquale Luiso opened the scoring after just 30 seconds, and then supplied the pass for Massimo Beghetto to make it 2-0 in the 55th minute. And although Gennady Zubov pulled one back for Shakhtar, Luiso struck again in the third minute of injury time.

It was an impressive performance from a Vicenza side, who showed none of the scars from Sunday's 4-0 mauling by Brescia in the Serie A.

Stuttgart turned on a tremendous second-half performance to crush Ekeren. The two teams turned round with the Germans leading 1-0 thanks to a goal two minutes before half-time from Bobic. Bobic scored again on the hour, six minutes after Akpoborie had made it 2-0. Akpoborie scored again a quarter of an hour before the final whistle.

Chelsea's player-manager Ruud Gullit was clearly angry when Polish referee Jacek Granat allowed the English Premiership club's

side to go ahead in Norway after the snow covers were lifted to reveal a saturated Alfheim Stadium pitch.

And his worst fears were realised as his team struggled while the home side took a 2-0 half-time lead thanks to goals from Steinar Nilsen and Frode Fernann.

As the match continued the already waterlogged surface became even worse when heavy snow began to fall and Chelsea also had to battle a bitter cold wind blowing in their faces. But five minutes from time Vialli skated through the area and slotted into the back of the net.

Gullit immediately tried to send on Andy Myers for injured French defender Frank Lebouef but he was ignored and within sixty seconds, Ole Martin Arst had made it 3-1 for Tromso.

Vialli, however, again ploughed his way into the area in the dying seconds and he managed to clip the ball past Tore Andre Grenersen to keep Chelsea's hopes alive for the return in London in two weeks' time.

Italy lose goalkeeper for key match

ROME (AFP) — Italy's hopes of qualifying for the 1998 World Cup finals suffered a setback on Friday, when injury ruled goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi out of next week's first-leg play-off with Russia.

Peruzzi slipped over in Slovakia on Wednesday night, just a few minutes into Juventus' European Champions League tie against Kosice. He was later replaced by Michelangelo Rampulla.

Called up by Italy coach Cesare Maldini on Thursday, he arrived at their Borghesiana training base here for an examination by national team doctor Andrea Ferretti, only to be told he would not recover in time.

A scan by club specialists in Turin had earlier revealed a pulled adductor muscle in his right thigh, similar to the injury suffered by his club and international teammate Ciro Ferrara.

Fearing the worst, Maldini had already called up two reserve goalkeepers in his 24-man squad: Gianluca Pagliuca, who played in the 1994 World Cup finals, and Parma's teenage sensation, Gianluigi Buffon.

Maldini now faces a lengthening injury list for a game his side must win if they are to avoid having to play the return in Naples on November 15 under monumental pressure.

Ferrara, who missed the qualifier against England, is still unavailable, while there are major doubts over the coach's son and team skipper Paolo.

The AC Milan defender is nursing an ankle injury and hasn't played since limping off at the Olympic stadium against Glenn Hoddle's side two weeks ago.

Juventus midfielder Angelo Di Livio, though technically suspended for next week's game, is out for two months anyway after tearing a calf muscle against Kosice.

European Cups Scores	
Real Madrid (Spain) 5, Olympiakos (Greece) 1	Group E
Parma (Italy) 1, Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 0	Besiktas (Turkey) 1, IFK Goteborg (Sweden) 0
Sparta Prague 3, Galatasaray (Turkey) 0	Bayern Munich (Germany) 5, Paris Saint Germain (France) 1
Group B	Group F
Manchester United (England) 2, Feyenoord (Netherlands) 1	Monaco (France) 5, Lierse (Belgium) 1
Kosice (Slovakia) 0, Juventus (Italy) 1	Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0, Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 2
Group C	UEFA Cup
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 3, Barcelona (Spain) 0	Second Round (First Leg)
Psv. Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1, Newcastle (England) 0	Rapid Vienna (Austria) 3, 1860 Munich (Germany) 0
Group D	
Rosenborg (Norway) 2, FC Porto (Portugal) 0	

Green Bay and New England in Super Bowl rematch

FOXBORO (AFP) — New England host Green Bay in a rematch of last January's Super Bowl on Monday, both teams boasting identical records and trying to pull away from their National Football League rivals.

Green Bay, the reigning Super Bowl champions, share the lead in the NFC Central division with Minnesota and Tampa Bay, all with five wins and two defeats this season.

Whatever the outcome in Massachusetts, either the Vikings or the Buccaneers will end up with at least a share of the NFC Central lead after they play in Tampa Bay on Sunday.

New England are tied for the lead in the AFC East with Miami, who host winless Chicago.

Both the Packers and the Patriots have battled through major injuries already this season. Green Bay lost running back Edgar Bennett and cornerback Craig Newsome to season-ending injuries and defensive tackle Gilbert Brown has missed a few games with a knee injury. The Patriots have weathered the losses of two key players — wide receiver Terry Glenn and defensive end Willie McGinest — for a number of games.

Brett Favre passed for two touchdowns and ran for another and Desmond Howard scored on a 99-yard kickoff return in Green Bay's 35-21 win over New England in last January's Super Bowl at the Superdome. Favre completed 14-of-27 passes for 246 yards and played virtually mistake-free football.

But the Patriots will not have to contend with Howard, who signed in the off-season as an unrestricted free agent with Oakland.

The Packers escaped with a 24-23 win at Chicago on October 12th before hitting their bye week last week.

The Patriots lost to their former coach Bill Parcells last Sunday, falling to the New York Jets, 24-19, at the Meadowlands.

New England may still be shellshocked after backup Jets quarterback Glenn Foley came off the bench and directed three second-half scoring drives. Foley replaced an ineffective Neil O'Donnell and completed 17-of-22 passes for 200 yards and one touchdown.

Two more 5-2 teams, Jacksonville and Pittsburgh, battle for supremacy in the AFC Central Division on Sunday.

The two teams met in Week Four on a Monday night when Travis Davis blocked Norm Johnson's game-winning field goal attempt and reserve safety Chris Hudson returned it 58 yards for a touchdown on the game's final play as the Jaguars held on for a 30-21 victory.

The game will probably hinge on the performance of the two quarterbacks. For Pittsburgh, Kordell Stewart has completed 87-of-157 for 1,149 yards and nine touchdowns while being intercepted eight times.

Mark Brunell has hit on 89-of-150 for 1,018 yards and seven touchdowns with three interceptions. His quarterback rating of 59.3 ranks fourth in the AFC.

Other Week Nine match-ups are: Baltimore at Washington, Cincinnati at New York Giants, Dallas at Philadelphia, Denver at Buffalo, Kansas City at St. Louis, San Francisco at New Orleans, Tennessee at Arizona, Indianapolis at San Diego, Oakland at Seattle and Atlanta at Carolina.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA "1" Kurt Russell ... in ESCAPE FROM L.A. Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PHILADELPHIA "2" Alicia Silverston & Amy Heckerling ... in CLUELESS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	PLAZA Tommy Lee Jones & Will Smith ... in MEN IN BLACK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD Concord "1" Geena Davis & Samuel Jackson ... in THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) Concord "2" TOO HOT TO HANDLE Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only	GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN Nicholas Cage ... in CON AIR Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN Van Damme ... in DOUBLE TEAM Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155 Watch out for the new play THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
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The Bulls

Threatened to retire after completing his last season, Michael Jordan was not able to complete the season due to a case of bronchitis. He finished over the season and met with Krause. A million fans were in attendance. A title in seven years.

Italy lose goalkeeper for key match

ROME (AFP) — In a move that could prove costly for the Italian national team, goalkeeper Roberto Battaglia has been ruled out of the World Cup quarter-final match against the Netherlands on Sunday. Battaglia, 33, suffered a knee injury during a friendly match against the Netherlands on Friday. He is expected to be out for several weeks.



German driver Michael Schumacher adjusts his mirror in the pits October 24 in the Jerez racetrack during the free practice sessions. Schumacher will face Canadian Jacques Villeneuve in Sunday's European Formula One Grand Prix to decide the new world champion (Reuters photo)

Villeneuve wins opening skirmish

JEREZ (AFP) — Jacques Villeneuve put the pressure on Michael Schumacher when he finished third on Friday after the first unofficial practice for the European Grand Prix. The Canadian, who must finish ahead of Schumacher and in the points in Sunday's race to take the drivers' title, was lying a lowly ninth quickest as he was forced back into the pits to have his Williams checked out. But he responded to the setback with a blistering lap to take third place. Villeneuve was just under two-tenths-of-a-second adrift of first day pacesetter Olivier Panis in the Prost. Outgoing world champion Damon Hill indicated his determination to finish the season for Arrows-Yamaha on a high with second spot, a few thousands of a second ahead of former team-mate Villeneuve. Heinz-Harald Frentzen was sixth quickest in the other Williams with McLaren's David Coulthard, who did not post a time in the opening session, winding up eighth fastest. Schumacher, looking for his third drivers' crown, was nearly eight-tenths-of-a-second off the pace in his Ferrari. Team-mate Eddie Irvine was 12th.

FA accuse Italian authorities of deliberate intimidation

LONDON (AFP) — The Football Association (FA) on Friday accused the Italian authorities of deliberate intimidation in their report into the disturbances surrounding the Italy v England World Cup match in Rome. The Italian police baton-charged England fans during the match on October 11, sparking a war of words between the two countries as to who was to blame for the trouble.



Florida Marlins players slap hands after they defeated the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in game five of the World Series. Florida leads Cleveland three games to two, and is heading back home for game six (Reuters photo)

Marlins win 8-7

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Livan Hernandez's mother watched her son pitch his second victory of the World Series, even if she was not allowed to attend. Hernandez, who defected from Cuba in 1995, hurled Florida past Cleveland 8-7 here Thursday to give the Marlins a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven baseball championship. The former Cuban national hurler tossed 142 pitches over eight innings in an iron-man effort that eased pressure on a tired set of Florida relievers. Hernandez's family remains in Cuba. And while his mother was issued an emergency entry visa into the United States, the Cuban government did not issue her an exit visa so she could leave to watch her son in person. Such permission was seen as unlikely because Hernandez's departure was an embarrassment to Cuba and his half-brother Orlando, a former Cuban Olympic hero, has been banished for life for considering a defection. Livan, a 22-year-old Cuban right-hander, said people at home were able to see his performance after a U.S. broadcaster beamed the game into the Communist island, located only 90 miles into the Caribbean Ocean. When asked how he knew his mother watched, Hernandez smiled and said, "It's a secret." What was obvious was how important she was to Hernandez, a man who left behind one nation but who is still trying to find himself in a new homeland where he has wealth but little guidance. "When I get out there, I really can't think about her or I will get into a lot of trouble," Hernandez said. "I take her out there with me, but I can't think about her. I think about her before I go out there. I think about her after." After his performance, even rivals were thinking that Hernandez had served notice of future stardom.

Sacchi may be Nigeria's next coach

MILAN (AFP) — Former Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi is considering an offer to coach Nigeria to the 1998 World Cup finals. Sacchi, whose team came within two minutes of being knocked out of the 1994 finals in the United States by the Super Eagles, is seriously considering the offer and will make a decision within days. Current betting is that he will say "no". Though fascinated by the sporting challenge of taking charge of the most exciting new nation in world football, Sacchi is concerned about the language barrier and the political climate of a country so far from Italy. Unlike Italy, Nigeria have already qualified for France '98 and their Olympic team won the gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games. And it took an 88th minute equaliser from Roberto Baggio at Boston's Foxboro Stadium three years ago to stop Italy from going out of the group phase of the World Cup to Nigeria. Sacchi won the European Cup twice with AC Milan before taking Italy to the final of USA '94, which they lost on penalties to Brazil, but quit the national job last December to take over at his former club. However, he was replaced by Fabio Capello after a bitterly disappointing season and is currently not coaching, despite having received a series of offers since the summer. Nigeria's former coach, Frenchman Philippe Troussier, was sacked by the national federation after failing to agree to contractual conditions. These are international standards applied to ensure that the horse is safe, and no cheating takes place. As could be expected, the heat of the desert sun took its toll. Of 107 starters, 86 horses passed the first stage, 65 the half-way stage, 38 horses made it through the third and final stage, but only 25 horses finished! Of the many horses that were pulled out of the race, most were due to lame legs. HRH Princess Haya, and Mohammad Saleh, HRH Princess Alia's husband, both retired after the first stage. Second in the race came Shoe Shot from Jordan's Jafar Stud, and the only other nation competing, the UAE, took third place with Mohammad Fathi Al Ali's horse Sabir Al-Saed. The only female rider in the race, Josleen Abu-Ragheh, finished twelfth on Al Mudhaba. The first twenty horses all received prizes. After the race, HRH Princess Alia expressed her satisfaction with the event and thanked all those who had helped organise it, including sponsors Emirates Airlines, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, and the 20 veterinarians and students from Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, who were on-hand to lend assistance to the twelve doctors flown in from the U.K. and Ireland. One of these, Hussam Al Dein, expressed his pleasure at having attended the race, and felt he had learnt a lot from the British doctors he had worked under. That the doctors and stu-

Jelweh leads 25 finishers in annual endurance race

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A smiling HRH Princess Alia Friday received provisional first prize in the annual endurance race, as her horse, Jelweh, ridden by jockey Abdullah Hassan, came in first and passed a fitness test at the Royal Racing Club. A great cheer arose as HRH Princess Alia's horse entered the circuit at the club, after just under four hours, at breakneck speed. There was general amazement at the finish which was exceptional. One of the spectators enthused: "To do that after 80 kilometres is incredible." Although Jelweh had the fastest time, it had not yet won: winning depends a check-up by doctors to make sure the horse is in good health. In fact, the final result will only come after two weeks, after results from blood samples for doping have been returned from the U.K. The doctors check every horse after each 20km stage. If at any point they feel the horse is unfit to continue they will pull it out of the race. The horses wait 30 minutes between each stage where their respiration rate, pulse rate and legs are checked. They are showered with cold water in order to cool down, and if they pass, the jockey receives a tag that will allow him to continue. After the finish a blood test is taken, which will be sent to the U.K. for examination. These are international standards applied to ensure that the horse is safe, and no cheating takes place. As could be expected, the heat of the desert sun took its toll. Of 107 starters, 86 horses passed the first stage, 65 the half-way stage, 38 horses made it through the third and final stage, but only 25 horses finished! Of the many horses that were pulled out of the race, most were due to lame legs. HRH Princess Haya, and Mohammad Saleh, HRH Princess Alia's husband, both retired after the first stage. Second in the race came Shoe Shot from Jordan's Jafar Stud, and the only other nation competing, the UAE, took third place with Mohammad Fathi Al Ali's horse Sabir Al-Saed. The only female rider in the race, Josleen Abu-Ragheh, finished twelfth on Al Mudhaba. The first twenty horses all received prizes. After the race, HRH Princess Alia expressed her satisfaction with the event and thanked all those who had helped organise it, including sponsors Emirates Airlines, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, and the 20 veterinarians and students from Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, who were on-hand to lend assistance to the twelve doctors flown in from the U.K. and Ireland. One of these, Hussam Al Dein, expressed his pleasure at having attended the race, and felt he had learnt a lot from the British doctors he had worked under. That the doctors and stu-

dents had worked hard was evident in the treatment centre, where some horses were receiving intravenous drip, because they were too exhausted to drink themselves. Water is administered through a plastic tube which reaches the stomach via the nose. Although there were no serious injuries, the exhausted horses were the only major concern. "I have rarely seen horses so exhausted," said Frenchman Denis Letarte, the newly appointed head trainer at the Royal Stables. "Apart from the first horse, I thought all the horses were too exhausted. This means they need better training, better riding and better shoeing, if they are to compete internationally." This is a project Mr. Letarte is specifically hired to work on. Next month is the World Cup in Qatar, for which Jordan hopes to enter three horses that will be chosen by Mr. Letarte. The aim is to establish an international team of some standing, and put Jordan on the endurance race world map. The World Cup is the first step, and a major international tournament here in Jordan is the second, provisionally scheduled for next April. But perhaps the best summary of a long and hot day is left to the winning jockey, Abdullah Hassan. Smiling, but clearly exhausted, he expressed what surely both riders and organisers must have felt: "I am very tired, and very happy!"

RESULTS

Horse	Owner
1. Jelweh	HRH Princess Alia
2. Shoe Shot	Jafar Stud
3. Sabir Al-Saed	Mahmoud Al Ali (UAE)
4. Abu Maizer	Waheed Al Assaf
5. Nouwar	Waheed Al Assaf
6. Mahdoub Sami	Mohammad Jubarrat
7. Al Ghabra'a	Samir Hunaiti
8. Thekriat	Azmi Mehiar
9. Azbe	Mahmoud Al Ali
10. Al Jaded	Sultan Ghanam
11. Medme'h	Raed Manasra
12. Al Mudhab	Jordan Turf Club
13. Tayr Al Sahra	Ismael Salim
14. Mahdoub Nasser	Abu Tuba
15. Mahdoub M.	Mohammad Abu Hassan
16. Zein El Kheil	Taha Al Shoubaki
17. Kheilan	Kamal Al Bahu
18. Al Afra	Haitham Khalil
19. Lamy'a Al Barq	Moussa Nuseirat
20. Sabel	Azmi Mehiar

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Piccard wins women's World Cup opener

TIGNES (AFP) — France's Leila Piccard won the women's opening World Cup skiing event of the season when she took the parallel slalom here on Friday. Piccard beat Sweden's Ylva Nowen in the final. Third place went to Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria when beat Germany's Martina Ertl.

Chavez undergoes elbow surgery

MEXICO (AFP) — Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez, whose World Boxing Council (WBC) light-welterweight title fight against compatriot Miguel Angel Gonzalez was postponed until January after he injured his left elbow in training, has undergone surgery on the injury. The former world champion, whose arm will be in plaster for at least a fortnight, hopes to be able to restart training for the fight against Gonzalez in December. The WBC crown was left vacant by Oscar de la Hoya in April.

N. Ireland sack manager

LONDON (AFP) — Northern Ireland sacked Bryan Hamilton as national team manager on Thursday. The 50-year-old former Leicester boss, in charge for the past three and a half years, had his contract terminated shortly before it was due to expire. Hamilton's dismissal follows the failure of Northern Ireland to qualify for next year's World Cup finals. The team had just one win in their qualifying campaign — at home to Albania. Under Hamilton Northern Ireland won only eight of 31 matches.

Bjorkman beats Kiefer as Korda ousts Rios

STUTTGART (AFP) — Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman continued the form which could take him into a place in next month's end of season championship finals as he demolished German hope Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-2 for a place in the semi-finals of the \$2.3 million Eurocard Open on Friday. Kiefer, the world No. 34, had no answer to the brilliance of the 13th-seeded Swede, whose game has exploded into prominence this year. Bjorkman, a U.S. Open semi-finalist who began the year at just 69th on the ATP Tour, will now have to wait to find out his next opponent with 16th-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajcek and fellow Scandinavian Magnus Larsson playing a night match at the Schleyer Halle. Bjorkman's career has really taken off this year during which he won his first two titles, at Auckland in January and in Indianapolis prior to the U.S. Open. While the day-to-day standings of the 13 men with a chance to claim the final five places in the

finals will not be released until Saturday, Bjorkman almost certainly has made up the 10-point gap behind French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, who lost in the third round on Thursday. Czech veteran Petr Korda earlier booked the first

place in the semis as he dented Marcelo Rios' lingering hopes of reaching next month's eight-man season-ending ATP Tour championship in Hanover. Korda, winner of seven career titles but none this year, ousted the ninth-seeded Chilean 6-3, 6-4 to book

a semi-final date against either third seed Patrick Rafter or Australia, the U.S. Open holder, or unseeded American Todd Martin. Regarding Hanover, only Pete Sampras — a third round loser here to Richard Krajcek — second-round loser Michael Chang and

Rafter have already qualified. The other five provisional places are held by Briton Greg Rusedski, Spaniards Carlos Moya and Sergi Bruguera, seventh-placed Austrian Thomas Muster and Kuerten.

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HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN

Clinton balking at meeting with Netanyahu — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A planned visit to the U.S. next month by Benjamin Netanyahu is in doubt because President Bill Clinton refuses to meet the Israeli prime minister in the absence of progress in the peace process, the Israeli daily, Yediot Achronot, reported Friday.

Unidentified sources in Washington told the daily that President Clinton would like to announce tangible advances in negotiations with the Palestinians following any meeting with Mr. Netanyahu, but fears he would emerge empty-handed.

Israeli diplomats said Mr.

Netanyahu hoped to meet President Clinton when he travels to the U.S. to address an American-Jewish congress Nov. 16 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We're talking about a meeting for a half hour," a senior diplomat in the Israeli embassy told Yediot.

"If the president would want it, the meeting could happen. But the Americans are not interested in just another meeting."

Officially, the White House says the president has "prior engagements" that prevent him from meeting Mr. Netanyahu in mid-November and the prime minister's office said the

leaders were still trying to coordinate their schedules.

The Haaretz newspaper said another problem with a mid-November trip was that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would also be out of Washington at that time to attend the MENA economic conference in Qatar.

The Israelis and Palestinians tentatively resumed talks Oct. 6 after a seven-month freeze but no concrete progress has been reported.

The U.S. and Palestinians continue to demand that Mr. Netanyahu order a "time-out" in Jewish settlement expansion in Palestinian

areas but the right-wing prime minister has repeatedly refused this.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian National Authority negotiator Mahmoud Abbas are slated to meet in Washington next week to discuss the "time-out" and an overdue Israeli withdrawal of troops from Palestinian areas.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman returned from Washington earlier this month reporting the administration expressed a lack of trust in Mr. Netanyahu and that they could not depend on him.

Arafat, Kohl discuss Mideast 'preoccupations' in Germany

BONN (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl discussed their "increasing preoccupation" with the Middle East peace process in Bonn Friday, a German government spokesman said.

They stressed the need to continue the peace process in a "determined and constructive manner" and to work in a spirit of trust to the benefit of the populations involved, spokesman Herbert Schmueling said.

Chancellor Kohl had assured President Arafat that Germany and its European partners remained committed to doing everything possible to support the process, the spokesman added.

The Palestinian leader is on a two-day visit to Germany,

beginning with talks in Bonn focusing on the peace process and economic issues.

President Arafat, who was also due to meet Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, first held talks with Parliamentary Speaker Rita Suessmuth, the parliamentary press service said.

Meetings with Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt and Finance Minister Theo Waigel were also on his agenda for later Friday.

He was to meet with Mr. Kinkel on Saturday.

President Arafat arrived from France where he said Thursday that the latest Israeli-Palestinian peace talks under U.S. auspices had produced "no result," and that he was counting on European help.

Speaking after talks in

Paris with French President Jacques Chirac, he said "the most important is to see how we can bring the Israeli government to implement" the Oslo peace accords.

During his brief visit, the Palestinian president also met Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and gave a speech to the ruling body of the U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

President Arafat told UNESCO that the peace process was "in a black tunnel."

"The crisis is exacerbated by the Israeli government which has persevered in annexing the Palestinian territories, in building settlements and in expanding existing settlements," he said.

Syria missed 'historic opportunity' to regain Golan — Christopher

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Assad missed an "historic opportunity" to regain control of the Golan Heights by not grasping peace overtures from former Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin, former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in an interview published Friday.

Mr. Christopher told the Haaretz newspaper that President Assad's "mistrust and suspicion" of peace offers from Rabin and his successor as Prime Minister Shimon Peres kept him from responding.

"He examined it so extensively and exhaustively that he missed the opportunity," Mr. Christopher said in what was billed as his first interview on the Middle East situation since leaving office early this year.

"My own view is that he missed an historic opportunity to achieve a return of the Golan, or return of territory," the former secretary of state said.

Israeli officials have acknowledged that before his assassination in November 1995, Rabin had informed Mr. Christopher of his willingness to consider an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and other territory captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

The offer was conditional on Syria agreeing to sign a full peace treaty with Israel and provide security arrangements which would ensure protection for Israel against possible surprise attacks.



SERIAL BUNGLER: A leftist Israeli woman displays an anti-Netanyahu poster during a demonstration against the Israeli prime minister Friday. Hundreds of left-wingers called for Mr. Netanyahu to resign after he made remarks earlier in the week saying leftists forgot they were Jews. An open microphone picked up Mr. Netanyahu's comments to a leading rabbi on Tuesday, unleashing a tide of public criticism (Reuters photo)

Pentagon finds no conspiracy to hide Gulf war logs in probe

WASHINGTON (R) — Pentagon investigators concluded on Thursday that the U.S. military did not conspire to destroy missing documents related to possible chemical or biological contamination of U.S. troops in the 1991 Gulf war.

But a report released by the defence department inspector general said an army officer was under criminal investigation for taking classified documents that might shed light on the Pentagon's investigation of Gulf war illnesses.

It said the U.S. central command did not safeguard its still-missing computer logs in Saudi Arabia and Florida as it should have, but found "no evidence of a conspiracy to destroy the missing logs, either by individuals or organisations."

The Pentagon is investigating complaints ranging from loss of memory to chronic headaches by some 60,000 Gulf war veterans, but has found no common cause or concrete evidence they were sickened by Iraqi chemical or biological agents.

The missing logs, including reports of possible detection of chemical agents or contamination of troops in the Arab Gulf, were apparently mistakenly erased from computer discs after being sent back to the U.S., according to Pentagon Inspector General Eleanor Hill.

But her report said the final whereabouts of the logs, mostly kept on laptop computers in Saudi Arabia and later sent back to central command headquarters in Florida, were still a mystery.

The key missing logs apparently covered an eight-day period when U.S. soldiers blew up an Iraqi ammunition dump at Kamasiyah in southern Iraq shortly after the war ended in 1991.

Thursday's report did not identify the officer under criminal investigation, but one defence official said privately that the officer was "in serious trouble for apparently taking classified documents home."

Gulf war veterans groups have accused the Pentagon of not taking their initial complaints seriously, and allowing the problem to go on for years before beginning an in-depth probe in 1996 on orders from president Bill Clinton.

20 U.S. warplanes watching Iraqi zone return home

MANAMA (AP) — Twenty U.S. warplanes, which arrived here last month to support a "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq, have returned home, a U.S. military official said Thursday. The squadron of F-15 and F-16 fighter jets came to Bahrain last month from mountain home air force base in Idaho to be deployed temporarily on the island. "They returned home this week after performing their task," said Lieutenant Colonel Marc Martens, spokesman for the Riyadh-based joint task force South West Asia. "Some of the 1,000 support personnel which had been deployed with the warplanes have also been redeployed and the remaining will be returning by the end of the month," Lt. Col. Martens told the Associated Press by telephone.

'93 twin towers bomb carried war message to U.S. — suspect

NEW YORK (R) — The accused mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Centre (WTC) bombing said he selected the twin towers over an Israeli target to make Americans realise they were at war, a federal agent testified in New York.

Before the government rested its case against Ramzi Ahmad Yousef late on Wednesday, secret service agent Brian Parr recounted Yousef's chilling admission to jurors in Manhattan Federal court.

A spokesman for U.S. attorney Mary Jo White said on Thursday the government had rested its case, which began on July 15 and brought over 880 government exhibits and testimony from 112 witnesses. The defence begins its case on Tuesday.

Mr. Parr testified that during a six-hour conversation he and another agent had had with Yousef on a flight to New York after his 1995 arrest in

Pakistan, he told them that his motive for bombing the complex "was in retaliation for U.S. aid to Israel."

"He related to us that during World War II, the Americans had dropped the atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 250,000 civilians, and he said that the Americans would realise if they suffered those types of casualties that they were at war," Mr. Parr said.

Attorney Parr also testified that Yousef told him he originally had considered a cyanide gas attack on the WTC but gave up on the poison because it was "too expensive."

Yousef also said he would have built "a more efficient bomb," more deadly than the urea nitrate bomb used in the actual blast, if he had had more money. He said his financing came from his family and friends, the agent said.

Yousef, who claims

Palestinian and Pakistani ancestry, was indicted in 1993 on charges of taking part in the bombing, along with four Islamists convicted in 1994. The four were each sentenced to 240 years in prison for their roles in the Feb. 26, 1993, blast, which killed six people and injured thousands.

Prosecutors called the WTC bombing the first major terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Mr. Parr said Yousef also told him he was "disappointed" when the first news accounts of the blast indicated that only one person had been killed. He said his plan was for one tower to topple the other. Mr. Parr said he had asked Yousef why Mohammad Salameh tried to get his \$400 deposit back on the rental van used to carry the 544.3 kilogramme bomb into the complex. "He looked at me with a grin and in one word said, 'stupid,'" Mr. Parr testified. Salameh was convicted in the first WTC trial.



By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The battle in Amman's 3rd District is fierce and analysts find it hard to agree on who will win any of the five allocated seats (one Christian, one Circassian/Chechen, and three Muslim).

The presence of popular candidates, enjoying support from different segments of society, the participation of political parties — almost absent elsewhere in the Kingdom — and highly politicised election campaigns that feature national agendas rather than local and tribal issues, make this district unique in an otherwise dull campaign for the 1997 polls, election watchers agree.

Including rich and poor from the capital's neighbour-

3rd District, a barometer of political atmosphere, unique in otherwise dull 1997 election campaigns

hoods of Shmeisani, Abdoun, Sweifeh, and Jabal Amman, as well as Al Hussein refugee camp, the 3rd District could be considered a microcosm of the Jordanian society, that analysts traditionally view as the barometer of the political atmosphere in the Kingdom.

On Nov. 4, 117,217 registered voters, 43.7 per cent of which have so far collected their voting cards, will have to choose from among 19 candidates, a low figure when compared to the national average of six candidates per seat.

Notwithstanding the boycott of the Islamists, who won their first seat in the district in the last elections and the boycott of former Prime Minister Taher Masi, who represented the district both in the 11th and 12th Parliaments (1989-1997), the most prominent candidates are cautious about their chances and many say that the election results could bring

about many surprises.

Analysts however agree that competition is particularly heated for the minority seats.

Communist Emily Naffah, Ba'athist Khalil Haddadin, and veteran leftist Issa Madanat, all competing for the one Christian seat, are favourites, but in different orders.

"I would say that Haddadin is the strongest, especially due to his impeccable record as an opposition figure in the last Parliament," an Arabic newspaper columnist told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Haddadin agrees of course, but says that "like everybody else running in this district, I cannot say that my victory is sure."

Mr. Haddadin, who heads the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, won the last elections with 1,582 votes.

Two weeks ago, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid ordered

down some of Mr. Haddadin's banners because they carried slogans describing Israel as "the Zionist enemy."

More recently, the minister accused Mr. Haddadin of financing his campaign from "foreign sources," an allusion to Iraq, since the candidate is allied to the Iraqi Ba'ath party.

According to a well-informed source, however, Ms. Naffah has more chances of winning the district's Christian seat not only because of her 42-year experience as a politician and a women's rights activist, but also because her Communist Party Secretary General Yacoub Zayad transferred his tribe's votes from his home-town, Karak, to the 3rd District.

Other Christian candidates seem to have lesser chances, and most rely on the Christian vote, which is estimated at 17,600.

They include: National Constitutional Party (NCP) candidate Farah Rabadi, who won the Ajloun Christian seat in 1993, Odeh Qawas, a "new face" with strong ties to the Orthodox Christian community, and a woman candidate, Norma Nassar.

The Circassian seat is fiercely contested between outspoken opposition leader Toujan Feisal, who is also Jordan's only woman deputy, and Nayef Moula.

Due to his curriculum as a former ambassador to Singapore, Brazil, Indonesia and Brunei, Secretary General at the Ministry of Information, and Head of the Press and Publications Department, as well as his campaign slogans, Mr. Moula is largely considered a pro-government candidate.

"The battle between the two [Ms. Feisal and Mr. Moula] is a battle between the govern-

ment and opposition," an analyst commented.

Ms. Feisal, the analyst said, "seems to be taking for granted her re-election, which is very dangerous. She is travelling all over the Kingdom supporting other candidates, but she is not doing much in her own constituency."

Ms. Feisal is targeting the electorate at large rather than concentrating on specific groups, which could prove less effective than Mr. Moula's campaign strategy.

Mr. Moula is said to have the support of no less than 2,500 Circassian voters.

"At this stage of my campaign, I can say I have secured a comfortable number of votes," Mr. Moula told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview on Friday.

One of the three Muslim seats, analysts agree, will for sure go to former Deputy and Minister of Industry and Trade

Ali Abul Ragheb.

The 51-year old engineer has staged an effective campaign, not sparing posters and television appearances, and is said to enjoy the support of the business community.

Enjoying the support of Jordanians of Palestinian origin, candidate Mazen Ryal is expected to get a share of the 6,000 votes from Al Hussein refugee camp.

Also running for the Muslim seat is engineer Mohammad Khair Keilani, the second official NCP candidate in this district.

Observers say that Mr. Keilani has good chances of winning.

Other Muslim candidates, all first-timers, are: Fathi Snobar, Khalil Barakat, Lutfi Barghouti, Mohammad Sa'ed, Munther Halaseh, Ra'ed Baqri, and Tareq Humeidi.



N.Y. woman who refuses to mow lawn heads to court

SKANEATELES (R) — A woman who has refused to mow her lawn for four years heads to court next week in her effort to fend off angry neighbours who want it cut. Bourke Kennedy, who lives in a village in upstate New York, says she is not growing a lawn but a garden and has a right to keep a mower from ruining her herbs and wild flowers. Neighbours say Kennedy's lawn ruins the neighbourhood and decreases their property values. Village workers were set to mow her lawn this week, but state Supreme Court Justice Parker Stone signed an order to keep the mowers away, at least temporarily. Next Monday, another judge will decide whether to enforce the temporary restraining order.

Husband made his wife deaf by shouting at her

EXETER (AFP) — A 58-year-old man with hearing problems made his wife virtually deaf by shouting at her, a jury decided at a court in this southwestern English city Friday. The wife, who now wears a hearing aid and has divorced her husband, filed a complaint after three incidents in 1995 and 1996 when she said her husband seized her by the arm and shouted into her ear. Peter Pryor denied the events had occurred, but the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the judge will pronounce sentence in the coming weeks.

World body sees 'Space Tourism' by 2020

ISTANBUL (R) — Tourists may be holidaying in space rather than beach resorts by the year 2020 as the number of international travellers triples from current levels, a World Tourism Organisation (WTO) report obtained on Thursday said. In a series of forecasts, the group predicted annual tourism receipts would rocket to \$2 trillion by 2020 from \$425 billion. In 1996 as the number of international arrivals leaps to 1.6 billion from 595 million. The report identified "the advent of near space tourism" as one of the trends that will shape the industry in the 21st century. "The emergent space tourism of that time will be by definition an activity which is undertaken largely in isolation," the report said.

French 'apples' turn out to be huge Vodka haul

ROSSLARE (AFP) — A truck arriving here on a ferry from the French port of Cherbourg, which was supposedly carrying a consignment of apples, was found instead to contain 13,200 bottles of Vodka. Customs officials in this southeastern town said Friday that the seizure was worth around \$300,000. The driver of the container truck, an Irishman in his thirties, was detained for questioning and a file is being prepared for the country's Director of Public Prosecutions, police said.

Spice Girl back in action in their tour

LONDON (AFP) — Spice Girl Geri Halliwell will get back to work on Saturday after suffering a bout of food poisoning, a spokesman for the British pop group said on Thursday. The Spice Girls had to cancel an appearance at a charity concert in Sweden because their record label Virgin did not want to risk the 25-year-old's health in flying from Japan. On Saturday, they will perform in Germany on the European leg of their promotional tour.

Palestinian protests

Protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli military operations and settlement expansion. Demonstrations were held in various locations, with participants calling for international support and an end to the occupation.

Arafat calls for union pressure

Yasser Arafat urged the Palestinian Legislative Council to exert pressure on the Israeli government to resume peace negotiations. He emphasized the need for a unified Palestinian stance and called for increased international involvement in the process.

Taffy influences

Analysis of the political and social influences shaping the current situation in the region. The article discusses the impact of various factors, including international relations, local politics, and social movements, on the overall environment.